

Professor Blunt still in Britain, friend confirms

Professor Anthony Blunt, the London flat until yesterday morning, although his lawyer had not left Britain, a close friend told yesterday. He stayed in his in the Commons.

Spy 'feels bound by secrets Act'

retired Teedler and Bradley

Professor Anthony Blunt, the royal art adviser named the "fourth man" in the spy Affair, has not left Britain according to a close friend yesterday. This was said by Mr Michael Rubin, Professor Blunt's lawyer. "I do not think that it has gone abroad," he said. "I am a Londoner, and I have remained in my flat in the City, London, until yesterday morning, and then I went for a few days in the country."

Professor Blunt chose to stay in his flat in the City, London, until yesterday morning, and then he went for a few days in the country. He was told about Mrs. Blunt's written reply but did not send a copy and was "furious".

Mr. Edward Leathbridge, MP for Harlepool, did not name the professor and said that the Cabinet Office said that it was not a matter of courtesy. He added: "It was not a tip-off, it was done as a matter of courtesy."

Government plans further cash squeeze on local authorities and state industries

Another round of public spending cuts on the way

By Our Economics Staff

A new round of public spending cuts which will lead to an actual fall in the overall level of public spending next year, is on the way. This contrasts with the Government's plans to stabilize its spending in real terms, as set out in the White Paper on Public Expenditure published just two weeks ago.

Behind the Government move comes a determination to hold down the level of public borrowing next year as part of its policy for controlling the money supply. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, last night emphasized the need to limit borrowing if a prolonged period of high interest rates were to be avoided.

The squeeze on spending will come through the application of tight cash limits on the spending of local authorities and government departments. Cash limits for local authorities and for the borrowing needs of Nationalized industries were published yesterday. These limits will reduce the level of public services next year unless offset by increased efficiency.

Although the cash limits for government departments are not likely to be published for some months, the expectation in Whitehall at present is that they will be based on similar earnings as those for the local authorities. Thus, a drop of 2 to 3 per cent in the real level of public spending is likely between this financial year and next.

The cash limits announced yesterday were brought forward from their usual publication date around the time of the Budget in a deliberate attempt to influence wage settlements in local authorities and nationalized industries.



An angry Dr Kissinger confronts his critics over Cambodia.

Accusations infuriate Dr Kissinger

By Fred Eyring, Political Editor

An incensed and bitterly defensive Dr Henry Kissinger, for once lacking his old composure and sense of self-deception, tried in London yesterday to rescue his reputation from the Cambodia horror.

Mr Shawcross, not invited to yesterday's press conference, was saturated with expletives. His work was "substantially false and polemical". It was "tendentious", a "persecution", and somehow Mr Shawcross had benefited from "a selective release of secret documents by a successor Administration".

Dr Kissinger, at times stammering in his anger, was asked whether, with hindsight, he would have handled Cambodia differently, and how far he had changed his book as a result of Mr Shawcross's criticism.

Rate support grant pegged at 13% inflation level

By Christopher Warren, Local Government Correspondent

The Government yesterday fixed the grant towards local government for next year at a level relevant to pay and price inflation of 13 per cent.

any authorities spending too much. Mr Heseltine said that the Government would not go over the limit. "If the figures look like being exceeded, the additional costs will have to be found by the ratepayers, or by a lower level of services, or by a lower level of people employed in local government."

That cash limit puts the responsibility on local authorities to keep wage increases for the two million council staff down in order to avoid high rate increases or severe cuts in services, or both.

The settlement provides for a relevant expenditure, that is current spending plus loan charges and capital expenditure out of revenue of £15,737m (November, 1979 prices), in 1980-81, of which the Government will maintain its grant payment of 61 per cent.

Mr A. G. Taylor, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "The Government are putting local authorities in the front line in the battle against inflation. Wage awards would have to be below 13 per cent, he said. "There is simply not the money in this settlement to cover awards at that level."

Additional grant payable because of pay and price rises, based on 13 per cent inflation, amounts to £1,380m on the rate support grant, £46m on and £700,000 on national parks and £700,000 on national parks supplementary grant.

For extra costs in 1979-80, the Government has announced a reduction of £300m, and yesterday took away another £20m. The cash limit stands at £493m for rate support grant, £30m for transport supplementary grant, and £400,000 for national parks supplementary grant.

The Government has also set a cash limit of £150m for pay settlements and comparability awards yet to be made, largely to pay for the cost of awards made by the Clegg commission.

Mr Heseltine, who said his settlement was fair and realistic, also announced changes in the grant system in 1981-82, based on a new block grant.

It is intended to be more clearly understood than the present system, and will enable the Government to identify those councils that spend too much. If they do the Government will reduce their grant.

A transitional arrangement will be adopted next year to catch up with the new system.

Mr Heseltine said that his settlement was fair and realistic, also announced changes in the grant system in 1981-82, based on a new block grant.

Opposition mount pressure to curtail information Bill scope

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

The Government's protection of information Bill should be withdrawn in the light of the revelations contained in Mrs Margaret Thatcher's statement about Professor Anthony Blunt, Mr David Steel, the liberal leader, said last night. His call coincided with the filing of the Bill in the House of Commons.

There are signs that the Government has become nervous about the scope of the Bill and ministers are willing to consider substantial amendments. Whether they will be driven to withdrawing the Bill depends on the weight of opposition.

Lord Wigg has already told how the arrangements for handling security questions were changed drastically when Labour came to power in 1964. "When they handed over to us by way of security was a dog's breakfast," he said, "and it was not until the Profumo case that the operational channel was changed."

The Labour amendments to the Bill, published yesterday, seek to ensure that no special protection shall be given to information relating to security and intelligence.

In the Bill, as drafted, the ban on the media using information about security and intelligence is unconditional. Lord Wigg, former Lord Gardiner (another former Lord Chancellor), Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, the distinguished criminal lawyer, and Lord Ardwick, former editor of the Daily Herald and political adviser to the Daily Mirror Group, want to put this information on the same footing as information relating to defence or international relations.

Mortgage rate likely to reach 15pc

Mortgage interest payments are expected to rise to a record rate of 15 per cent after the increase in minimum lending rate and the Government's decision to introduce more attractive National Savings rates. An emergency meeting of the Building Societies Association has been called for next Thursday to discuss the effects of the new M.L.R. Higher mortgage rates could be brought into effect on January 1 to replace the increases announced last July.

Ex-Emperor Bokassa says he is 'broke'

Mr Jean Bokassa, deposed Emperor of the Central African Empire, was quoted by a Paris newspaper as saying he was broke and bitterly regretted the sale of his castle in France to a French businessman. He said he had asked his son, Saint Cyr Bokassa, to try to cancel the sale.

Panorama cleared

In a statement issued by the BBC board of governors, inquiries into the filming of a Panorama team of IRA activity in Carrickmore, Co Tyrone, collision has been ruled out. But the board agreed their concern over questions of editorial control. The rules covering programmes on Ulster affairs will be more strictly enforced.

Difficult negotiations ahead on Rhodesian ceasefire

By David Spenser, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sharp comments from General Peter Walls, commander of the Rhodesian defence forces, and the spokesman of the Patriotic Front, suggested yesterday that coming negotiations on a ceasefire may prove as difficult as anything that has gone before at the Lancaster House talks.

Examples: Sum required to secure school fee payments for five years, starting at £1,000 for the first year and increasing annually thereafter by 7% p.a. compound.			
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5	£2,909	£2,782	£1,127
7	£2,407	£2,344	£1,063
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13	£1,277	£1,474	£201

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Tehran on the march

Tens of thousands of Iranians more ardent than ever in their support of the occupation of the American Embassy, marched through Tehran in the biggest demonstration of its kind so far. In New York a decision on whether the Shah may return to Mexico after radiation treatment may be taken next week.

'Watchdog' wrangle

MPs yesterday blocked motions to set up a new "watchdog" select committee on departmental affairs, because of a wrangle over committee membership. Some members believe an attempt has been made to keep "troublesome" MPs off particular committees, though that has been denied.

Immigrant test case

A test case is to be filed by two groups of immigrants to see whether the London borough of Hillingdon has a duty to house them under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

Mayers accuse Israel

Two of the Arab mayors who have resigned on the West Bank accused the Israelis of bringing trumped-up charges against them in an attempt to silence their opposition to the plan for Palestinian autonomy now being negotiated by Israel and Egypt.

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Sir John, your Sunday Times is back.

HOME NEWS

Controversial report on smallpox outbreak at university awaiting publication decision by ministry

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

The Department of Health said yesterday that no date had been fixed for publishing the controversial report by Professor R. A. Shooter into the smallpox outbreak at Birmingham University last year.

Earlier this month Birmingham magistrates in effect rejected many of the report's conclusions, finding that the university had not failed to ensure as far as practicable the health and safety of its employees in the medical school.

Professor Shooter, Professor of Medical Microbiology at London University and Dean of the medical college of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, headed the government inquiry into the outbreak, which led to the death of Mrs Janet Parker, who had worked in a department above the smallpox laboratory. Professor Shooter, virologist in charge of the laboratory, later killed himself.

The Department of Health said the report was being con-

sidered with a view to publication, but no date had been settled.

The magistrates who dismissed the charges against the university last year were two experts witnesses, one for the prosecution and the other for the defence, who both said the smallpox laboratory had been "clean".

A piece of evidence omitted from the Shooter report involved radioactivity tests. Mr Reginald Farr, head of medical physics at Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre, Birmingham, was commissioned by the inquiry to test for radioactivity with instruments capable of detecting one ten millionth of a microcurie per centimetre.

The reason for his involvement was that viruses in the laboratory were labelled with radioactive substances, and it was thought these would reveal any trace of escaped virus. But after exhaustive tests Mr Farr's report was negative and did not appear in the final inquiry report.

The inquiry favoured the view that Mrs Parker was infected by airborne smallpox that probably escaped through a service duct as a result of bad laboratory practices. But four

expert witnesses, two from each side, said that airborne infection was not a possibility.

Dr Robert Harris, a microbiologist who was a witness for the prosecution said: "No one can be infected unless by contact with the virus". How Mrs Parker came into contact with it would probably never be known.

Dr Allan Downie, FRS, Emeritus Professor of Bacteriology at Liverpool University, told the court that he was at a smallpox hospital over a period of years. He used air sampling equipment designed at Porton Down. He tested for airborne infection but never succeeded in finding any trace of virus except when a sample was taken within 10 inches of a patient's mouth.

Samples moved: Samples of smallpox virus stored at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, for the past two years were moved yesterday under strict security to the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research at Porton Down (the Press Association reports).

The operation, which took just under three hours, came after two weeks of preparation at the hospital and Porton Down.

Race body to inquire into borough housing rule

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The Commission for Racial Equality is planning to investigate the housing policy of the London borough of Hillingdon. A test case is also to be brought by two sets of immigrants to see whether the council has a duty to them under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977.

A year ago Mr Terry Dicks, chairman of Hillingdon's housing committee, turned an immigrant family over to the Foreign Office for its responsibility. Hillingdon had given them temporary accommodation for the night.

At that time Mr Dicks said he had given temporary accommodation to 14 families, including the one sent by taxi to the Foreign Office. He was quoted as saying: "Seven of these were whites. Seven were non-whites. So you see I am not a racist."

Mr Nicholas Rainsford, director of London Housing Aid Centre, told me yesterday it had dealt with the family, a widow, Mohamed Jaffer Jan Mohamed, and his four children, after they had been turned away.

Hillingdon has reviewed its obligations to house applicants arriving in Britain through the Foreign Office and who claim to be homeless. The council told an applicant who had come from Cyprus with his wife and three children that as he had never had a local connection with the area of any housing authority in Great Britain, the council owed no duty to him under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

The council takes the view that even if the Act did apply, then he cannot be considered homeless because he has accommodation in Cyprus, which he deliberately left to emigrate.

The other case involves a woman with a child who applied to the council for housing shortly after she arrived from Greece. The council has told her also that it owes her no duty under the Act.

The reasons are similar to those in the first case, and "further, the fact that the applicant, a foreign national, is not entitled to remain permanently in Great Britain, her permission to stay being only for six months."

Both applicants are legally represented and Hillingdon Council understands that proceedings will soon begin challenging the decision.

Mr John Watts, leader of the Conservative-controlled council, told me last night: "I do not believe that Parliament could possibly be intended to legislate for people like these."

The result would then apply to every housing authority in Great Britain. If the court upheld the contention of the immigrants that the council would have to offer accommodation to people in that category.

Hillingdon has an arrangement with the Greater London Council for the provision of property for permanent housing for people arriving from Heathrow, although on some interpretations it is claimed that it does. The only satisfactory way to test it is to test it in court.

That would then mean business, we will have no new conventions or assemblies for two years, to concentrate on enforcement.

Since 80 per cent of ship accidents involve human error, improved operation and maintenance, especially by flags and owners known to be substandard, is the best way to reduce accidents, and IMCO is helping various states, mostly developing countries, to set up or modernize marine academies of a high standard.

Another key area will be persuading countries visited by substandard ships to act against them instead of leaving it to the flag country, when it might be a "flag of convenience".

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World drive to improve ship safety

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

A drive for improved ship safety on the oceans is to be launched by the United Nations maritime arm, an international delegates decided in London yesterday. In a significant shift of emphasis this will be done not by agreeing yet more rules and regulations, but by persuading governments to implement those that exist.

That would immediately bring about a sharp improvement in safety and pollution through better selection and training of seafarers and improved inspection and maintenance of ships.

Mr C. P. Srivastava, secretary-general of IMCO (the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization) said after its latest assembly.

"The conventions we already have are quite good, but some governments are not implementing them," Mr Srivastava said. "As the world maritime agency, IMCO is no longer satisfied to be the means whereby governments can avoid international regulations. We intend to pursue with governments how to get action. We cannot implement, but we can tell governments that we are behind them in their efforts to implement."

To show that we mean business, we will have no new conventions or assemblies for two years, to concentrate on enforcement.

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Children taken to hospital after school accident

Mr John Hodgkinson, a teacher, and 12 children were taken to hospital yesterday after an accident in the laboratory at St Anne's School, Fareham, Hampshire.

Apparent being used ignited, spraying sulphuric acid over Mr Hodgkinson and the children, aged 14 and 15. They were released after hospital treatment.

A member of the school staff said of Mr Hodgkinson: "The children are full of praise for the way he ignored his own pain to help them first."

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Voluntary organizations are increasingly concerned that many of the Vietnamese refugees accepted by Britain are not receiving enough "survival" language training to equip them for British life. In some cases they are being settled in areas where housing is available but suitable teaching facilities are not.

With 4,000 "boat people" already in Britain and 9,500 more to come, those worried have led to calls for a national organization to coordinate language teaching and an intense follow-up programme once refugees have been housed. The Department of Education and Science to call a one-day conference of local authorities and voluntary bodies later this month to examine the refugees' linguistic needs.

According to Mr Malcolm Greatbanks, tutor in charge of the Inner London Education Authority's language teaching project at Kensington, where the first big batch of refugees arrived a year ago, tuition in English is being organized nationally on a "hit and miss" basis.

Eighty refugees have been living at a Save the Children Fund reception centre at Pontefract, West Yorkshire, since mid-September. The centre was, however, no full-time teacher at the centre until last week, when the fund appointed one of its

Books on safety checks 'missing after fire in warship' that killed eight

Two safety check books disappeared after a fire in a new warship that killed eight men, Mr Justice Boreham was told at York Crown Court yesterday.

One of them, a diary, kept in a cabin in the Ceres-class destroyer Glasgow, was supposed to be signed each morning by night-shift fire patrol men. It was designed to be a record of safety infringements found in the 3,600-ton ship, which was being fitted out at Swan Hunter's Neptune shipyard at Wallsend, Tyne and Wear.

It was stated to have been seen last on the morning of the fire when Mr John Richardson, a cabin steward, was supposed to be checking it each morning. "It was found to be missing when someone asked to see it after the disaster," he added.

He added: "I realized after the fire that it was a very important document, but I have no idea where it is now."

Mr O'Sullivan, foreman of the fire patrol since 1976, also admitted that he had not given his men any instructions on removing oxygen pipes left running down the ship after burners had finished their shift and gone home.

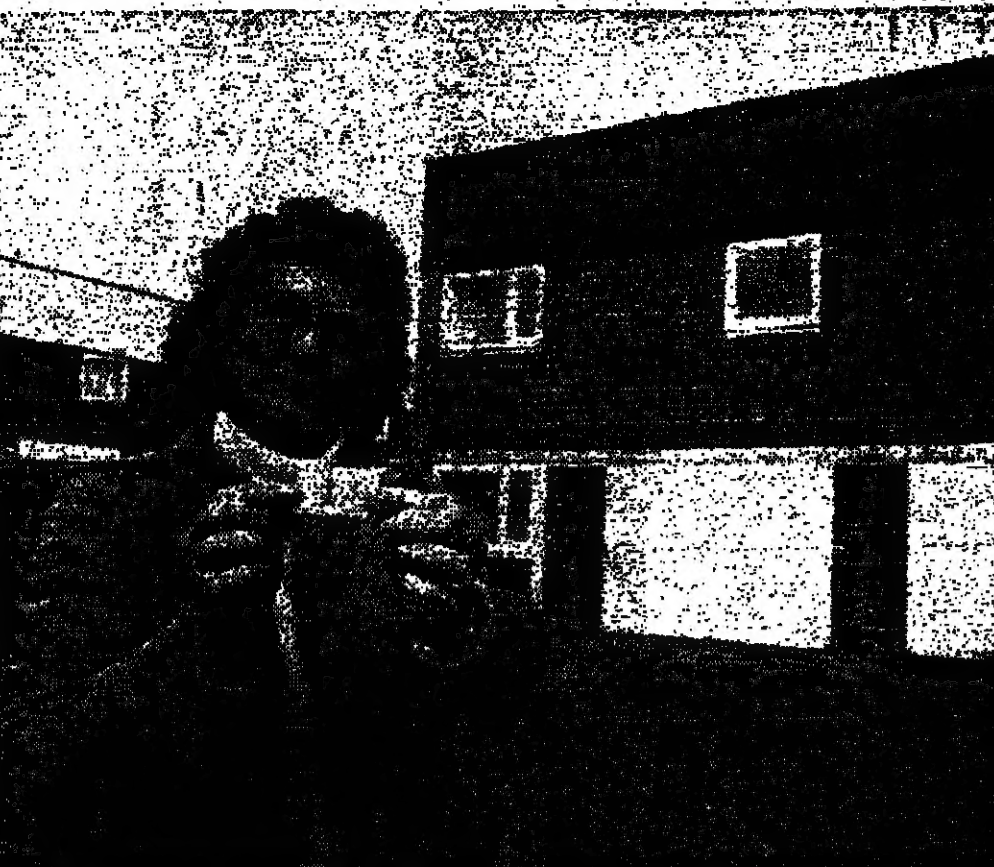
The court had been told that oxygen from a burner's hose running from the open top deck to an auxiliary machine room on the lower deck had been building up "for some considerable time". Eleven men had just begun their day shift in the machinery room when a burner's arc torched the oxygen and the fire began.

Mr Andrew Roger, a safety officer in the yard, said the second safety check book vanished from an unlocked desk in the brick-built fire station about 70 yards from the fire. It contained daily entries by firemen.

Swan Hunter's subcontractors, Testator Insulation Ltd, who employed the eight men who died, have pleaded guilty to three charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act. Swan Hunter have pleaded not guilty to six charges under the Act.

The trial continues on Monday.

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Mrs Matthews heading the queue outside the house she hopes to buy for £4,950.

Queue forms for £5,500 homes sale

From Our Correspondent
Shrewsbury

A big queue of bargain-home hunters from all parts of the country built up in Shrewsbury town, Salop, yesterday. All

were hoping to buy a house for under £5,000 today.

Telford Development Corporation is selling three-bedroom, garage, house at prices ranging from £4,200 to £5,500, with 95 per cent mortgages. The houses, built 13 years ago, are being offered at 70 per cent of their market value.

By yesterday nearly 70 people were in the queue, which was headed by Mrs Olivia Matthews, of Leytonstone, London, who

with her son Stephen and his fiancée, Mrs Angela Fells, was seeking a home for the young couple. They had been there since last Wednesday.

The influx of outsiders annoyed local people, who feel the sale has been published too widely.

But a corporation official said: "The houses are being offered on a first come first served basis, and this was well known before the start. This is the second batch of houses to be offered in this way."

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Doomed diving bell 'lacked own heating system'

From Our Correspondent
Aberdeen

There was no self-contained heating system in the stricken diving bell that plunged to the bottom of the North Sea after its umbilical lifeline, life wires and guideline wires were cut, a fatal accident inquiry was told in Aberdeen yesterday.

But later a senior diving inspector for the Department of Energy said that the department was carrying out two investigations into the cause of the heating within diving bells.

Mr Edward Hammond, a diving supervisor on board the support vessel, Star Canopus, at the Beryl Alpha platform site at the time of the accident on November 26 last, said there was no government requirement for it, then, and no satisfactory equipment on the market at that time.

"At the time of the accident it was not sufficiently possible to do it. Things have now come on to the market, but they are very much unproven," he said.

Earlier he told the inquiry that the emergency procedure for a bell which had lost contact with the surface was to send a diver to look out from the bell to clear away severed wires and cables, return and seal the bell and jettison weights.

"That would be only a last ditch attempt, however, and agreed with a solicitor representing the families of the dead

divers that the two men trapped inside the bell on the seabed found the emergency procedure impossible to use.

The bell also had not carried a "pinger", a directional signal transmitter for the Department of Energy, which would have sent a signal to the dive control pinpointing the position of the bell, because, he said, it was found to be interfering with the dynamic positioning of the support ship.

Mr Hammond agreed that it was pure luck that a mini-submarine mother ship and second diving support vessel had been on the scene, otherwise they would not have been able to do anything for the stricken bell.

He said that financial constraints were partly responsible for the diving ship having no minisubmarine, and added: "I suppose they could be provided if the money was spent."

Mr Roy Giles, senior diving inspector for the Department of Energy, said the department as well as investigating the heating of diving bells, had also reached agreement with offshore diving companies for "pingers" to be put in all future bells, and in two months guidance would be issued for the operation of vessels using dynamic positioning.

He had found the Star Canopus diving system safe and sound when he inspected it. The inquiry, before Sheriff William Macdonald, was adjourned until November 26.

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Residents' help sought to beat South Wales vandals

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

The South Wales Constabulary and members of Cardiff City Council are planning a series of public meetings in council estates in an effort to persuade residents to combat the unrelenting vandalism that is devastating their areas.

From the depressed valleys to the coastline, vandalism is an endemic part of life in South Wales, and one authority, Mid Glamorgan County Council, estimates its cost at more than £400,000 a year. That figure does not include major offences against society such as the arson at Pentywyn Comprehensive School earlier this year, which cost £500,000.

Schools throughout South Wales have become favourite targets for vandals and headmasters have held open days to conduct "parents' around wrecked classrooms."

The elderly and infirm are particularly vulnerable, fearful old ladies have complained of being forced to spend their pensions on protection in order to keep young thugs at bay.

Inevitably some of the worst damage occurs in the valleys, where unemployment is high and amenities lacking.

Shocked by the extent of it, the new chief constable of South Wales, Mr John Woodcock, has assigned two plain clothes officers to each of the three worst areas: Cardiff, Swansea, and Merthyr Tydfil, to deal exclusively with vandalism.

Mr Woodcock has appealed directly to the public to help in the new venture, which if successful after six months, will be extended throughout the force.

"The cost of vandalism is unacceptably high," he said, "and I find it difficult to believe that members of the public do not see it happening. We want them to give the police their valuable assistance."

In Cardiff Councillor Stefan Terrell, a member of the South Wales Police Authority, blames parents for encouraging vandalism. "They just do not bother to find out where their children have been at night," he said.

He said a successful campaign to have 15 shelters erected on a council estate Mr Terrell was horrified when within weeks they had all been wrecked. "I am hoping that public meetings will make people realise that it is they who pay for vandalism, and that the answer is largely in their own hands."

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Court test for doubts in consumer law suggested

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Government is considering testing doubtful areas of consumer law in the courts. Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, has opened talks with Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, about legal steps which might be taken.

Mrs Oppenheim has also told the Consumers Association, the publishers of Which?, that she is anxious to speed up matters in cases where individual consumers might be reluctant to instigate proceedings because of the expense and the uncertainty of the outcome.

There are several areas in which cases might be brought. The supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act 1973 adopted a new definition of merchantable quality, which has not been

tested and which has left many lawyers in doubt about the circumstances in which their clients might hope to get their money back for defective goods.

The Unfair Contract Terms Act of 1977 strips exclusion clauses of legal effect unless they are "fair and reasonable". As far as is known no cases have been brought under the law since it came into force on February 1, 1978, so there has been little doubt as to what judges would consider fair.

Litigants also would find established precedents useful for the assessment of damages for spoil holidays. Compensation offered by tour operators varies widely, but the courts at stake are seldom great enough for aggrieved clients to consider suing.

Mrs Oppenheim's idea is that Mr Borrie should bring test cases to court, to clarify the law rather than to obtain redress in the individual cases.

Mountbatten murder case evidence questioned

From Annabel Perle
Dublin

A defence lawyer in the trial of the two men accused of murdering Lord Mountbatten of Burma yesterday raised a question about some of the evidence against his client.

Thomas McMahon, aged 31, a fitter, of Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan, and Francis McGil, aged 24, a gravedigger, of Ballinamore, Co Leitrim, deny murdering Lord Mountbatten when his boat was blown up by a bomb at Malahide, Co Sligo.

Mr Patrick MacEntee, for the defence of Mr McMahon at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin, suggested to Dr James Donovan, a forensic science expert, that only a small part of Lord Mountbatten's boat had two layers of paint on it, a dark green layer and a lime green

layer, identical to the flakes of paint said to have been found on his client's clothing.

"If it was established that only a tiny percentage of the boat had two layers of paint, described in court, the chances of it being honestly on the clothing of Mr McMahon becomes more remote," he said.

Mr MacEntee asked Dr Donovan whether he had worn special protective clothing when examining one of the car's men alleged to have used, where certain paint flakes were said to have been found which matched those on his client's clothing.

Dr Donovan said he had not worn a white coat, but he could not have contaminated the car because he had only put his head in to examine it and washed and combed his hair too frequently for paint flakes to remain in it.

The trial continues on Monday.

Girl swimmer's award

Sharon Lucas, aged 11 of Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, who had both legs amputated below the knee at birth, has won the Amateur Swimming Association's "promise" survival award.

End of the pier

The 146-year-old Royal Pier in Southampton is to be demolished, after its owners, the British Transport Docks Board, decided against spending £500,000 on maintenance.

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WEST EUROPE

M Barre's fortunes recover after period of gloom

By Charles Hargrove
Nov 16

The political fortunes of M. Barre, the French Minister, which only a few weeks ago seemed to have reached their lowest ebb since took office in the summer of 1974, have now taken a decisive turn for the better. The Minister was allegedly involved in a real estate scandal in the town of France; his health had been under the strain and he had to go into hospital at the time of the opening of the last session of the Assembly. M. Barre had, so political analysts thought, at least, been with faint praise, a man "without any personal charm".

Finally on a visit to his constituency of Libourne, M. Barre, intimated the statesmanship of M. Robert Boulin, late Minister of Labour, as tipped in recent months a future head of government. This was enough to start a wave of rumours that M. Barre was politically cornered and to open once again the lobbies bet on his possible successor.

Now the situation is completely reversed. President Giscard d'Estaing, it was learnt, has sent the Prime Minister a letter outlining the government's tasks for the next months—hardly a sign that the foreseeable future belongs to appoint someone else.

M. Barre's personal standing, the latest opinion poll published by *France-Soir* today shows a spectacular recovery. In the number of people identified with him has risen in one month by no less than 13 points to 41 per cent—his best score almost a year and a half ago. Finally, the *Gaulois*, yesterday's newspaper, carried a column course with the Government over 2,000 francs (222m) of budget cuts, showed a willingness to compromise a meeting on this issue between M. Barre and his advisers yesterday, was widely expected beforehand. It is even possible still that

Barre's fortunes will be found to have recovered from the gloom of the summer of 1974, when he was allegedly involved in a real estate scandal in the town of France; his health had been under the strain and he had to go into hospital at the time of the opening of the last session of the Assembly.

M. Barre has never attached much importance to the "polls", but his health and his resolve would have broken down had a dozen times in the past three years, and he knows they can be interpreted in many different ways.

But this latest one cannot but give him satisfaction. Having been widely described as the most unpopular Prime Minister France has ever had, he has now, without budging one iota from his chosen line of policy, effected a spectacular recovery.

He once declared in private that it was quite normal that Frenchmen should not be satisfied with him, after all the bitter pills that he had made them swallow. They often told him so when he travelled about the country. But before taking leave of him, they often took him by the arm into a corner and said in a low voice: "naturally, you will stay on, and you will not change your policy."

The *Queensberry* rules are not conspicuously honoured in French politics, yet Frenchmen do respect political courage. M. Barre in recent weeks has seemed to them doubly a victim: first of unjustified attacks over his alleged involvement in a scandal, which proved, on his critics' own admission, utterly groundless; and secondly of his devotion to duty, to which he sacrificed his health. It was enough to help to swing the tide.

Angry sheep farmers meet M Giscard

From Ian Murray
Aubouze, Nov 16

President Giscard d'Estaing today had to face up to two of the most trying problems before his Government—French farmers and British sheep.

He came to Rodez in the Aveyron, the capital of the French rearing country, to the biggest demonstration about the British lamb imports have taken place.

During this brief visit to the southwest the President had to accustom himself to crowds waving banners more than to crowds waving flags. In Rodez one painted banner showing sheep grazing on mountain pastures summed up the two problems. "The sheep will conquer," it said. "Lancez-les!"

The Lanza plain has been a wrangling sore with the French administration for nine years now since compulsory orders were served on the sheep-rearers there so that the Army could use their land to extend its camp and shooting range already there. But the sheep-rearers of Lanza have fought the battle of the sheep.

With money derived in large part from conscientious objectors, they have succeeded in buying up much of the contested land.

The President dealt in his luncheon speech with the problem of British sheep. The local farmers are convinced that Britain is trying to flood the French market with New Zealand lamb.

This will be one of the main subjects broached during the Franco-British summit in London at the beginning of next week. The President today pledged his Government's determination to defend the income of the sheep-rearers of Aveyron.

From Rodez the President flew on to Toulouse where a large left-wing and union demonstration paralysed the centre of the city for two hours. Many workers were on strike for the day and the schools were shut.

E German buying squeeze

From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Nov 16

The endless rumours about higher prices for consumer goods and greater shortages of East German consumer goods have been discredited by a *Morgenpost* paper.

Der Neue Weg (The New Way) admitted, however, that there were bottlenecks in the supply of inexpensive goods, and that some items such as bicycles, towels and shoes, were overpriced.

It also indirectly confirmed Western reports of people drawing from their savings accounts to buy what was available. The paper blamed them for upsetting the balance between supply and demand but it also reminded state producers of the principle that enough time and medium-priced goods should be produced.

Relatively inexpensive bed

sheets of East German origin had become a scarcity. Instead, expensive imported ones were available to some extent. People were complaining that they used to get at least two sets for the price of one. They also grumbled about the "super-bicycle" for 750 East German marks (about £203 at the official rate) and the lack of the usual ones for 200 to 300 marks.

Some of the extraordinary price increases were taken back recently and some lower priced goods are available again. The special shops which offer Western food items for excessive prices continue to be crowded.

The East German Government has so far resisted the example of other east block states of increasing consumer goods prices in general. By various means attempts were made to achieve the purpose indirectly.

People called it cheating.

Suicide casts shadow over press

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 16

A formidable campaign against the press was unleashed in political circles after the suicide of M. Robert Boulin, the former Minister of Labour. In the five and cry, questions were raised about the limits of press freedom and there were even calls for placing legal restrictions on it.

M. Boulin took his life after disclosures by the weekly satirical journal, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the extreme right-wing magazine *Mitrague*, and *Le Monde* about his alleged involvement in property transactions.

President Giscard d'Estaing condemned these revelations as "methods unworthy of France". M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, told a group of journalists at the Elysée: "I ask you to meditate on the consequences of a certain ignorance and a great business."

M. Chaban-Delmas, the president of the National Assembly, spoke of "assassination". M. Jean Foyer, a former Gaullist Minister of Justice, declared that "the pen is as effective in killing people as poison."

M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, joined the chorus of accusers, stigmatising

the "campaign of groundless charges, perfidious insinuations, manipulation of facts," and calling for "an end to methods which debauch political life and democracy." The socialist alone showed some forbearance.

The letter left by M. Boulin which accused not the press but the Minister of Justice, crooked businessmen, and his own political friends somewhat spoiled the effect of this startling display of virtuous indignation. But it did not invalidate its lessons. Several commentators pointed out that French political life was poisoned not by the freedom of the press but by the disease of secrecy.

M. Jean-François Revel, the editor in chief of the weekly *L'Express*, hardly suspect of sympathy with scandal mongers, wrote that "if French politicians did not harbour such hatred of the press, and of press men, if they conceived their relations with the press as something other than public relations; if they agreed to reply honestly to the questions of honest journalists, they would be much less at the mercy of journalists who are concerned only with scandal."

OVERSEAS

Marching thousands in Iran become ever more strident

From Robert Fisk
Tehran, Nov 16

In the largest demonstration of its kind since the American Embassy in Tehran was seized by militant Islamic students 12 days ago, tens of thousands of Iranians trooped through the centre of the city today in support of the embassy occupation and the holding of the hostages inside.

Two miles away, almost half a million people, including Mr. Mehdi Bazargan, who resigned as Prime Minister last week, extended prayers near the city's main university and heard the country's leading ayatollahs encourage the students to continue their occupation.

Mr. Bazargan, sitting cross-legged on the ground, listened without expression as Ayatollah Montazeri, head of the committee of experts who have just completed writing the new Islamic constitution, told his audience that "the will of the Iranian people was behind the occupation."

Dr. Ebrahim Yazdi, the former Foreign Minister, sat next to Mr. Bazargan, who resigned last week because of the embassy seizure had undermined his Government's credibility.

Almost half a million students were gathering not far away for a meeting in support of the Fedayeen, the left-wing guerrilla movement, which is now illegal in Iran. The Fedayeen do not support the embassy occupation but have so far not voiced their opposition.

The Islamic sabbath has become a traditional day of demonstrations. If the American Government had hoped that the week's event—the halting of imports of Iranian oil to the United States and the freezing of Iranian Government assets in American banks—had created a more realistic atmosphere in Tehran towards negotiations for the hostages' release, it must have been deeply disappointed.

Outside the embassy gates, where the daily demonstrations have become an event for the American television networks, the anti-American slogans were shouted louder and more frequently than before.

Cloth banners of Ayatollah Khomeini 40ft long now hang from the high-rise office blocks outside the embassy compound, where Iranian revolutionary guards who were wounded in the recent fighting in Kurdistan province were paraded this afternoon to the applause of the crowd.

America waits for Tehran confusion to clear

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Nov 16

American strategy for the moment for dealing with the Iranian crisis appears to be to wait for confusion to clear in Tehran. The Shah may return to Mexico as early as next week, depending upon his response to radiation treatment in New York, and the Americans hope that by then the confusion of authority in Tehran will have been diminished.

Mr. Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, a leading member of the Iranian Revolutionary Council whose responsibilities include foreign affairs, is apparently searching for a compromise formula which will enable him to have the hostages released. The students who are in control of the embassy are opposed to this, and have threatened unspecified reprisals against prisoners held in the Shah's returned to Mexico.

Ayatollah Khomeini has said nothing. Although his staff has said that he will be incommunicado until December 5, an American television company hopes to obtain an interview with him and broadcast it.

The official American diplomatic position is that the United States will not discuss anything with the Iranians before the hostages are released, except the release, but will be ready to talk about any matter the Iranians may raise afterwards. The Iranian have said that they want to discuss the Shah's "crimes," and his fortune.

Neither before nor after the hostages' liberation will the Americans discuss the Shah's extradition. If the hostages are set free, safe and sound, the Americans would be willing to inform Iran officially of the Shah's state of health and his intentions—whether and when he might return to Mexico, or go elsewhere.

According to a spokesman for the Shah, Mr. Robert Armand, the Shah has received the first three of a series of 10 radiation sessions to treat a tumour in his neck. He has responded well so far, but no decision on whether he can be moved can be taken until the treatment is completed next week.

The Shah was admitted to hospital in New York on October 22.

Kissinger anger over Cambodia

Continued from page 1

who had the original and corrected proofs to hand. Which version was the truth?

"Both," Dr Kissinger replied, launching into an enormously detailed answer that left Mr. Paker at a loss for words. "Which is not in the book."

Dr Kissinger admitted several times that the United States had made mistakes over Cambodia, but he did not specify them. But his known wish to have had his country intervene in Cambodia, and harder came through only in his lament over Washington's ambivalence in "never doing enough to prevail and doing enough to keep the war going."

He resisted the accusation that the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia was the fault of the Americans.

He said the record showed that North Vietnam resisted all his efforts to keep Cambodia neutral in 1970 (a year after the secret US bombing of Cambodian sanctuaries began).

Dr Kissinger would admit to one regret—concerning the Middle East. It was that in 1974 he had not extended the Israeli disengagement to Jordan, and so averted the present problem with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which he blamed it on the Israelis—and Watergate—depriving the United States of presidential power.

Dr Kissinger was not running for the Senate—not yet anyway. He would reconsider it, Senator Jacob Javits of New York were to retire. He had no prediction who would win the presidential election next year but held himself ready to be consulted by any candidate.

Shawcross said: "Last night Mr. Kissinger's book proves my case that in Cambodia was a side-show. He dealt only with the 1967 secret bombing and the 1970 invasion and then Cambodia entirely disappears for over two years and 900 pages."

Barracks bombed

Turin, Nov 16—Terrorists hurled a bomb at an army barracks here, soon to be used for housing the Red Brigades leaders, police said today. The bombing, which occurred late yesterday caused light damage and no injuries.

But what does the French man in the street think of it all? *Sud-Ouest*, the Bordeaux newspaper, has published the results of a poll carried out by the *Sofres* between November 9 and 12. Of those asked 48 per cent think the news media should deal only with the political views of government and party leaders; while 44 per cent think it should also provide information about their private lives, their wealth, their state of health, and 51 per cent, against 38, consider it desirable that politicians should disclose details about their wealth, their health, and their private lives, as is the case in the United States.

But even if the press did publish this kind of information, 62 per cent would find it of little or no interest, and 40 per cent, against 36 per cent, believe French leaders and politicians to be "rather corrupt."

Nearly half of those asked believe that radio and television are subjected to a kind of censorship in France; and 25 per cent that the journalists themselves practise a form of self-censorship in suppressing news which might get them into trouble with the authorities.

Quiet cheer by British on conference success

A glow from the Rhodesia attic

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Victory, as Napoleon observed, has many fathers, so it is hardly surprising that the success, up to now, of the Rhodesian constitutional conference is not one man's work.

In any case Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, began the conference in a pessimistic frame of mind, and is not all that optimistic, even now. Certainly, he would not regard the past 10 weeks as the happiest time of his life.

Still, it was Lord Carrington's game plan which set the course for the conference and which has proved so effective so far. He decided, looking at all the previous efforts to get a settlement in Rhodesia, that whatever their theoretical merits they were far too complicated. Hence his approach of officials in that he likes to go single-mindedly for a solution.

from the Rhodesia Department of the Foreign Office.

Curiously enough, though one imagines the Foreign Office as a place of high ceilings and rooms lit by chandeliers, the Rhodesia section is up in the attic and looks a bit like the interior of a beached submarine.

Perhaps that is a reflection of the problem's inaccessibility all these years.

The senior official in charge, Sir Anthony Duff, has been the chief mover behind the scenes. A tall, quiet unassuming man with a shy, sly sense of humour, he is an old Africa hand having been High Commissioner in Nairobi.

In the early days of the conference he clearly went a long way toward gaining the confidence of both sides in working out the new constitution. His admission to hospital for surgery last month has left a gap in the British ranks.

The head of the Rhodesia Department, Mr. Robert Renwick, would be regarded as the driving force of the delegation. His colleagues see him as extremely decisive and rather untypical of officials in that he likes to go single-mindedly for a solution.

rather than concentrating on the objections to a given policy. People like Mr. Renwick, and Sir Patrick Laver, his predecessor, give the impression that they know more about the minutiae of Rhodesian politics than most people know about their own home towns.

Previously living in Salisbury as the British contact man, but now back in London, another key member of the team is Mr. Derek Day, formerly Ambassador in Addis Ababa.

The style of the British delegation has been set by Mr. Nick Fenn, the conference spokesman. There is a steady precision to his answers which tend to wrap up imprecise questioners like a combine harvester.

He has kept a firm grip on the press proceedings, and despite one or two arguments behind the scenes, inevitable in such a fraught negotiation, seems also to have the confidence of the African delegation's spokesmen.

After their success, the British team have let themselves go so far as to utter a restrained "hooray". But considering the immense difficulties ahead no one is really celebrating.

Future looks doubtful for Smith party

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Nov 16

There are many future left for the all-white Rhodesian Front, the party which was responsible for the Unilateral Declaration of Independence 14 years ago?

Now that the party must finally face the reality of black majority rule some members feel it no longer has a role to play and should either be disbanded or at least revamped.

However other members, probably a majority, feel strongly that the party should make sure it wins all of the 20 white seats in the new 100-seat assembly.

Mr. Ian Smith, the party leader and former Rhodesian Prime Minister is to test the mood of the members at two meetings to be held next week. The meetings will take place in the wake of yesterday's decision by the party caucus to support the Lancaster House agreement and to facilitate its passage through Parliament.

Last weekend Mr. Piter van der Byl, Minister of Transport and Power, called on the party to "revitalize" itself. As it was the only organization that was truly representative of Europeans, he said the party should do everything possible to guide events in the years ahead.

No role seen for guerrillas in policing the polls

By Charles Douglas-Horne

The key element in Britain's ceasefire proposals at Lancaster House concerns the arrangement for Patriotic Front guerrillas to collect at assembly points within 10 days of the ceasefire coming into effect. The British Government and the Salisbury delegation recognize that there can be no question of integrating the guerrilla forces with existing units before the election, in spite of demands from the Patriotic Front that this should be discussed. The guerrillas will be expected to remain in the designated assembly areas, and will not be allowed out of them armed or unarmed during the run-up to the election. This will be monitored by Commonwealth forces.

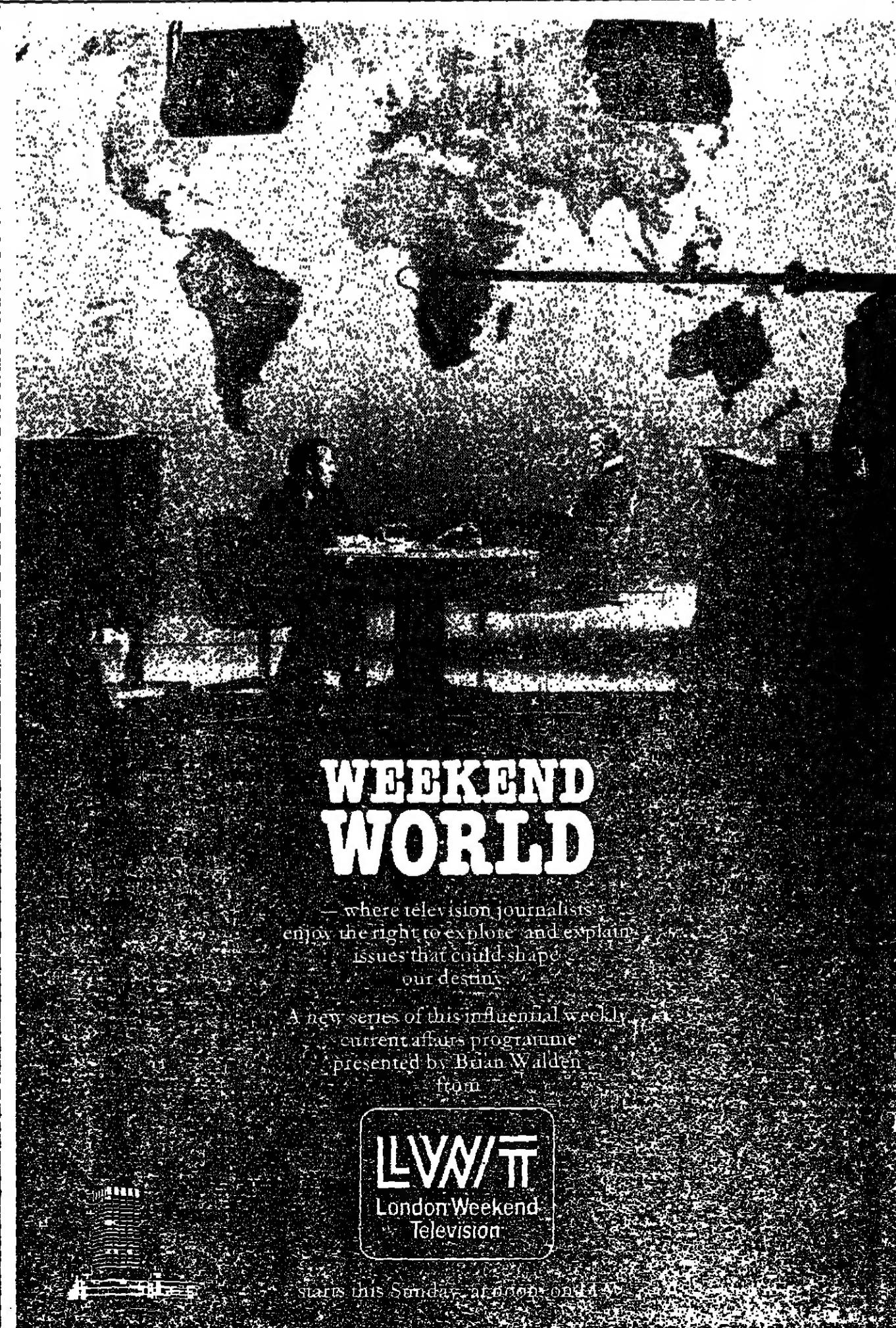
Normal policing of the country will therefore be carried out, under the British governor's orders, by the existing police and security forces, probably expanded by another big call-up of reserves which is being prepared. The Patriotic Front are expected to lay claim to control of certain areas in the country, but the demand that they concentrate merely in assembly points is said to be non-negotiable.

The Patriotic Front have also been pressing for their troops to be paid by Britain, but they will not receive anything other than free accommodation and food.

The Salisbury delegation is concerned also that, if the election campaign starts to show that Bishop Muzorewa is in a commanding position, the guerrillas will take to the hills and lie low until they continue with the war after losing the election. Threats of this kind are already being made, but there is no provision for the Commonwealth military force to stop such a development.

The jitters in Salisbury at the outcome of Lancaster House can be measured by the arrival in London of a representative of the right-wing element of the Rhodesia Front Party—those supporting Mr. Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister, rather than Mr. David Smith, the present Finance Minister. The Rhodesia Front appears to be sending out feelers to Mr. Joshua Nkomo's Zapu wing of the Patriotic Front. Lancaster House delegates yesterday were discussing the implications of the arrival of Mr. Boss Lilford, a former Rhodesia Front vice-president.

These cracks are mirrored on the black political side where the two wings of the Patriotic Front, Mr. Nkomo's Zapu and Mr. Robert Mugabe's Zanu, are preparing to fight the election separately.



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OVERSEAS

Two Arab mayors accuse Israelis of trying to silence them by bringing trumped-up charges

From Christopher Walker
Ramallah, Nov 16

As protest strikes continued today throughout the occupied West Bank, two of the Arab mayors who have resigned alleged that the Israeli Government was using fictitious legal charges against them in an effort to silence their opposition to Palestinian autonomy.

Mr Karim Khalef, former mayor of Ramallah, and Mr Ibrahim Tawil, former mayor of the neighbouring town of El-Bira, accused the Israeli authorities of attempting to exploit a section of Jordanian law. This decrees that a public servant found guilty of a crime which includes "disgrace" may be removed from public office, and prevented from seeking re-election.

The two men, generally considered the most radical of the 25 mayors who resigned collectively this week, recently appeared in court charged with assaulting a policeman at the Jerusalem High Court last November.

"The attempt to exile Mr Bassam Shaka, the mayor of Nablus, and the trumped-up proceedings against us are part of an Israeli drive to eliminate the West Bank leaders most opposed to the criminal concept of autonomy," Mr Khalef said. "It is a blatant attempt to silence men elected to their posts by the Palestinian people."

The two former mayors are

to appear in court again next month. Their case is likely to provoke further civil unrest in Ramallah and El-Bira, which between them have a population of 66,000. The mayor of Beit Jalla, another West Bank town, was dismissed last year after being convicted on a similar charge.

I understand that among witnesses who have agreed to appear on behalf of the former mayors will be Miss Linda Liviat, a correspondent for the American ABC television network who was present when the alleged assault took place. At the time, the two men were attempting to attend a High Court case concerning the Israeli seizure of land in the occupied territories.

Since the arrest of Mr Shaka last Sunday, Mr Khalef has emerged as the leading figure in the various protests against the Israeli action. Yesterday he was carried shoulder high outside Nablus city hall by a large crowd.

Mr Tawil, who at 33 is the youngest of the two politicians, claimed that West Bank Arabs would welcome attempts by the Israelis to install military administrators in place of the mayors who have resigned. "If they bring in the Army, it will become crystal clear to the whole world that we are having to live in an occupied land," he said.

For the fifth day, shops, schools and businesses in Ramallah and El-Bira remained shut in protest against the imprisonment and threatened exile of Mr Shaka. Israeli armoured vehicles patrolled the almost deserted streets and troops threw up road blocks on main roads. At one stage, cars attempting to leave El-Bira for Jerusalem were stretching back in queues over half a mile long.

This week's protests have demonstrated the growing radicalization of ordinary Arabs on the West Bank. Every day has seen violent incidents and arrests.

Today it was claimed that Mr Shaka had begun a hunger strike in Ramle prison, near Tel Aviv. His appeal against the deportation order is due to be heard before three judges in the Israeli High Court next Thursday.

Tel Aviv, Nov 16.—Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, has received a message from Mr Vance, American Secretary of State, about the Bassam Shaka affair. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the note was "moderate" in its tone, but he would not reveal the actual wording.

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Counting votes in Peking, yesterday after this week's election for a district council—the first under Communist rule with more candidates than seats. The 592 candidates for 350 seats were approved by Communist-controlled organizations.

Thailand fears overspill of 40-year conflict as time for real fighting in Kampuchea nears

From Peter Hazelhurst
Bangkok, Nov 16

When Dr Henry Kissinger presented the world with his much vaunted plan for peace in Indo-China seven years ago, an American journalist in Saigon was asked to write a profile on the last soldier to die in that tragic war.

His reply is worth setting down for history: "Impossible to comply with your request," he replied. "The last soldier to die in the war is not born yet."

Here on the border of Kampuchea seven years later, those cynical words begin to ring true. The French and the Americans have come and gone and yet the rumble of heavy artillery can be heard across the frontier. A stream of emaciated refugees stumble across the border into Thailand, the slow rat-catchers of a Chinese AK47 automatic rifle disturbs a flock of birds in the jungle and a new generation of 12-year-old Khmers are carrying weapons.

The war in Indo-China is still being fought after 40 years, and there are no signs that it will end.

About 150 yards to the west, across a small bridge, are the forward observation posts of the Kampuchean garrison town of Polpot. It is now manned by South Vietnamese troops who helped to occupy Kampuchea

during a 15-day blitzkrieg in January.

Once guerrillas and masters of the jungle in their own country, the Vietnamese find themselves ensconced in the towns and strategic forts in Kampuchea today, fighting an unpopular war much in the same position as their former adversaries, the Americans, were in the sixties and seventies.

To the north and south of Polpot, hidden in jungle camps, are their enemies: the right-wing Khmer Serei who are loyal to the deposed Kampuchean leader, Prince Sihanouk, and the Khmer Rouge, the ultra radical left-wing troops who support the ousted Marxist leader, Pol Pot.

They have in common a strong sense of nationalism and a hatred of the Vietnamese.

Reliable intelligence reports indicate that 20 Vietnamese divisions, about 200,000 men, are deployed in Kampuchea today. There are 10 crack divisions from North Vietnam and 10 divisions of less ardent South Vietnamese troops, led by North Vietnamese officers.

Three of these slightly demoralised South Vietnamese divisions are operating near the border. Kampuchean guerrillas, armed with a mixture of American and Chinese automatic weapons, mortars and rockets, continue to harass the supply lines of the occupation troops.

Although Vietnamese guns shell guerrilla camps almost every second day, Western military observers believe the real fighting will begin in late December or January when waters surrounding the flooded Tonle Sap, the large lake in Western Kampuchea, begin to recede.

"If they are going to move in and smash the Khmer Rouge we expect they will have to move five crack North Vietnamese divisions to the border from their present positions north and north west of Phnom Penh. That will be the sign that the real offensive is about to begin," a Thai officer said.

"They could move those troops down two major routes, Highway 5 and Highway 6, but the roads are vulnerable to ambush and I think they will wait until the surrounding countryside is dry before they launch the offensive."

Vietnam's elusive enemy in small in number and divided Kampuchea is comparatively into three groups: The Khmer Rouge, supported by China, has some 30,000 troops about half of whom are operating west of the Mekong river and close to the border of Thailand.

The remainder, now a spent force, are said to be hiding in the hinterland of Kampuchea, east of the Mekong river.

The Khmer Rouge's main fighting force is in jungle

camps and mountains south of Polpot while an estimated 5,000 right-wing nationalists, the Khmer Serei, are fighting the Vietnamese north of the border garrison town.

"We believe the Vietnamese are trying to locate Khmer positions for a big offensive," a Thai officer said.

On the other side of the border the Thai army watches the confrontation fearing that the fighting might spill into Thailand if the Vietnamese follow a policy of hot pursuit.

At present 15,000 Thai troops are attempting to close the western side of the frontier—two regiments of the second division of the first Thai army and 6,000 troops from the first cavalry. The Royal Thai Marine Corps is stationed on the southern flank of the border.

There is little doubt that the Khmer Rouge, without a base and ready supply lines, are incapable of achieving substantial victories against an army which defeated the French and the Americans.

It remains to be seen whether a protracted guerrilla war might still claim the life of a few who were born when the Americans were ringing the bells of peace in 1972.

'Twisting arms' over Nato plan

From our own correspondent
Moscow, Nov 16

Reluctant Nato countries their arms twisted by United States, Britain and Germany to get them to the stationing of new American missiles in Europe, maintained today.

Commenting on the 10 meeting of Nato defence ministers in The Hague, the newspaper said that the leading Nato countries through the communiques needed by crude pressure on the members to accept the plan of first starting talks with Soviet Union.

Pravda said that though plan was endorsed in Hague there was no unanimity on the issue among the ministers.

Another newspaper, Sskaya Rossia, today said the three countries justify need for the weapons by saying that they were a putting pressure on the status. But the Americans tried to blackmail the Russians with the atomic and with the hydrogen bomb, blackmail was a fiasco and Soviet Union now had weapons.

The Soviet press is largely identifying Mrs Thatcher as the leading cause of the Nato plan, attacks on her are becoming more personal. One of the crudest so far was made by the newspaper, Sskaya Rossia, which compared Prime Minister to a "v with a trident", which he still appeared on British Channel 4 television.

The Dutch Cabinet, which reluctant to agree to deployment of the weapons, decided on the issue on December 7.—Reuter.

South Africans to decide on peace zone plan

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Nov 16

The South African delegation at talks seeking a Namibian settlement is going to return to Pretoria for a decision whether their government go along with the concept a demilitarized zone.

The plan, drafted by United Nations and the 12 nation Western contact group is for a zone along the miles of Namibia's frontier with Angola and Zambia and extending out 32 miles on either side. It has been accepted in principle by the United States and by the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) whose president, Sam Nujoma, objects, however, to "militarized" proposals for a lasting peace in the region.

The South Africans have reservations about possible infiltration by SWAPO guerrillas the Angola section of the zone all of which would be manned by the 5,000-man peacekeeping force of the United Nations transitional assistance group.

Mr Andrew Shipanga, 31 of the SWAPO Democrats, at the meetings offered a ray of hope. "Geneva may become watershed in the search for peace in Namibia," he said.

Ruling party split averted in Japan

Tokyo, Nov 16.—A threatening Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was averted today when Mr Ohira, the Prime Minister, rejected a proposal for a party split.

The study noted, however, that mandatory busing would achieve more desegregation than voluntary busing. But the rapidly declining white enrollment (it stands at 27 per cent because many white families have moved out of the district or have placed their children in private schools) limits the capacity of any plan to achieve much more desegregation.

In another legal move to this district-out desegregation fight, a black civil rights group has filed suit in the United States District Court in Sacramento seeking to have "Proposition One" declared unconstitutional on the grounds that it promotes racial segregation.

Editor among 15 held in Seychelles

Victoria, Seychelles, Nov 16.—The editor of an independent publication closed down two weeks ago and the island's chief immigration officer have been arrested by the Seychelles Government, sources said today.

They said that Mr Bernard Verlaque, editor and publisher of Weekend Life, and Mr Gerald Hoarau, the chief immigration officer, were detained with at least 13 other people last night on undisclosed grounds.

The detentions came after a month of unrest which began on October 31 when school children marched through the streets of Victoria protesting against government plans to send young people to a youth training camp on a remote island.—Reuter.

Bank manager spanked bank debtors

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not close to my heart, that lawyers and judges are even further from my affections, that Alexander Solzhenitsyn is one of the admirers of the Russian and American busybodies, censors and suppressors but that I am often as unimpressed by the case made against them as by the case made on their behalf.

The picture that emerges is I suppose, of a liberal increasingly aware of the inadequacies of liberalism and a rationalist who finds himself less and less able to rely on rationalism; a man who has been born in the eighteenth century but disenchanted of the basis of the Enlightenment's optimism; above all, a man who, day by day, finds himself more and more convinced of the importance of the inner principle.

It is in this last area that I can recognize most clearly what my friends mean when they complain about the ground I fence off even from their will. To strangers are given conduct rules, but not rules for Mozart, haute cuisine and the English language. I plead guilty, but beg leave to make a statement before sentence is passed.


Is there a man who describes his priorities as much of his activities as I do must inevitably be determined to guard the areas of privacy that he retains for the sole use of himself and his intimates. Second, he promises to reform, and that brings to mind that I have already to some extent done so. In one respect—for instance, this book is already out of date: I have begun to write (because I have begun to think) about much more about what I have called above, the importance of the inexplicable. This in itself has involved revealing more

Liberty of expression

which I find myself simply uninterested, and the others Northern Ireland and its troubles, on which I have never been able to think of anything to say that has seemed to me worth saying.

But that has left plenty of room. Not long ago, inspired by nothing more than idle curiosity, I tried to count the number of distinct topics I had written about in my *Times* column, restricting the list to those I had discussed more than once, and I discovered that they numbered something like seventy. I shall not impose the list on the reader, but I am obliged to say something about the omissions, before making some general observations about the inclusions.

A very large proportion, of course, fell because they dealt with something so tied to a particular and limited event or moment that they have lost all interest now; in one instance,



myself than I have previously. I have been doing and I have no doubt that the second volume of my selected writings will amply reflect this development.

In the end I return to liberty, on which all depends. Including, of course, my abilities. But I have no doubt that in the past decade Britain has never been free of the totalitarian threat from within as well as from without, though it has been as depressing as it is hard to observe that the internal threat is more serious than the external has diminished: I have said that I confidently expect Britain to be proclaimed Soviet Republic at about the time the people of Moscow put their rulers on trial. But I have no doubt that liberty has been less in fear from those who deliberately seek to bring about liberty's destruction than from those who fail to see that there is a species of value—nothing in any particular other than the individual who composed and, so failing, pursue enough which, designed to enlarge the lives of many, succeeded only in narrowing the lives of all; I who most loudly proclaims him to be the enemy of liberty, often turns out to be liberalist and grimly just that.

Yet it is necessary to us why the individual is also important; if asked, can offer only a tentative and interim answer. It is surely true that the universe makes any sense at all if only does so in terms which imply that the individual soul—an unfashionable word, but one which I now fully adequate soul—has a duty to develop itself towards the highest of which it is capable. Some say that this task can only be accomplished over many lifetimes; it is not necessary to believe that, but that the argument is not to be understood in terms

material betterment: many who have nothing in this world are far richer in spirit, because they are more distressed and more aware of what they are, than those who are poor beyond the dreams of misery, though they lie on mattresses of soft down and on their backs, too, and can sleep soundly and comfortably all. That is why many a political prisoner is more free behind the barbed wire than the guard who patrols it, as half the world's prisoners live under steel.

This is not an argument, though it has often been used as one for telling the poor not to mind their poverty. It is an argument for believing that only as individuals can we hope to realize our full potentiality, and that anything which denies or restricts that realization denies education to the East.

Even more interestingly, in a recent interview with that Russian-born Harvard incorporated in his stage adaptation of Waugh's autobiographical novel *The Order of Giletti's Troops*. Asked: "You have not much sympathy with the man in the street, have you?" Pinfold replies:

You must understand that the man in the street does not exist. There are men and women, each one of whom is an individual and immortal soul, and such beings need to use streets from time to time.

But only from time to time. Some suggestions as to what happens to them for the rest of the time will, I hope, be found in this volume, and more, I expect, in his successor. As for that, that is my own view of what I have to write, and whether others share it I shall not doubt now discover.

© Bernard Levin

Bernard Levin has adapted this article from the introduction to his collection of essays *Talking Sticks*, published this month by

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This is not an argument, although it has often been used as one for telling the poet not to mind their poverty. It is an argument for believing that only as individuals can we hope to realize our full potential, and that nations, which denies or restricts that realization, are not worth the self. Evelyn Waugh put it neatly in a little interview, part of which Ronald Harwood incorporated in his stage adaptation of Waugh's autobiographical novel *Decline and Fall*. "Pinfold: Asked: 'You have been very sympathetic with the man in the street, have you?' Pinfold replies: 'You must understand that the man in the street does not exist. There are men and women, each one of whom has an individual and immense soul, and each being needs to use streets from time to time.'

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Daville

TELEVISION

BBC1

9.45 am. The World of Rugby (The Way Ahead) (r).

10.30. Monty Python's Flying Circus: an all-purpose entertainment, phone-in, and exchange-your-pigeon programme for young viewers. Bizarrely compered by Noel Edmonds. World's fastest runner Sebastian Cox is a guest.

12.12 pm. Weather.

12.15. Grandstand: items include: 12.20 Football Focus: Racing at Ascot at 12.50, 1.25, 1.55 and 2.30; 12.30 International Squash at 1.10 and 1.45; 1.45 International Table Tennis: Benson and Hedges (Champion-ships) at 2.50 and 4.05; Rugby League: Bradford Bulls v. Wakefield Trinity at 3.20; Final Score at 4.40.

3.05. Who Killed Who? (cartoon).

5.15. News: with Richard Whitmore.

5.30. The Basil Brush Show: more fun with the assertive fox.

6.00. Dr. Who: final episode of The Creature from the Pit. Tom Baker and his ridiculous scarf versus The Thing with a secret.

6.25. Larry Grayson's Generation Game: Larry Grayson, Miss St. Clair and his ridiculous scarf versus The Thing with a secret.

7.20. Saturday Night Takeaway: a comedy sketch show.

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9.00. Saturday Night Takeaway: a comedy sketch show.

9.40. Match of the Day: Jimmy Hill introduces highlights from two of today's Football League matches. Tony Wilson gives his usual football round-up.

10.40. Parkinson: Michael Parkinson's guest is the American singer and composer Bertie Maude who is a respecter of people with sensitive cardrums.

11.40. Weather. Closedown at 11.45.

BBC2

12.05 Open University (Continued): decisions—turning on the heat! Closedown at 12.30.

2.15. Lucky Luke: first British TV screening of a full-length animated cowboy story about a gunslinger.

3.30. Play Away: songs-and-comedy show for children. The jokes are mostly venerable, but the pace is unrelenting and the young studio audience looks satisfied.

5.55. Film: Texas Carnival: I agree with David Robinson's general conclusions (see Film on TV) but I must put in a good word for Ann Miller's dancing.

5.05. Horizon: A Treasury of Trees. Report of a TV series programme about the need for preserving our traditional landscape.

5.55. Grapevine: ways in which we can help to improve the National Health Service. To be repeated next Wednesday.

6.25. A Diary of Britain: repeat of the TV series about the village of Bolsover, near Sheffield.

7.30. News and Sport. And weather.

7.40. Ice Skating: highlights from the Ice Skating Championships at the Earl's Court Ice Rink.

8.05. Wayne Sleep in Adam's Rib: the show is a good word for Ann Miller's dancing.

choreographed for TV. Music by Ken Wood (see Personal Choice).

8.55. Film: International: The Life of Chikuzen. First screening on British TV of this true story of a Japanese blues singer (see Film on TV).

10.55. News and weather.

11.00. International Tennis: highlights of the day's semi-finals in the Wimbledon Championships at Wimbledon. Matched by the ever-dependable David Vine.

11.50. Film: The Teckman Mystery. An American film about a man trying to stop him from writing a book about a missing pilot (see Film on TV). Closedown at 1.30.

London Weekend

6.40. Sesame Street: American series for children that combines learning with entertainment.

9.40. The Besenheimer: adventure story set in Canada.

10.05. Superstar: a criminal's plan to evade justice is followed by the armed crusader.

10.30. Times: unscripted fun for children, which often spills over into lunacy.

12.30. World of Sport: 12.35 On the Ball; 12.55 Sport and the Cinema; 1.15 News; racing from Newcastle at 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00; and from Warwick at 1.45, 2.15, 2.45, 3.15 and 3.45; 1.50. Hunting and Gaelic Football Final; 3.50. Half-Time Football; 4.00. Westinghouse; 4.50. Sports Centre.

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12.00. George Hamilton IV: the country and western singer cut-ins.

12.30. am. Close.

Firms on TV

The week's Film International presents Kenzo Shindo's 1977 film The Life of Chikuzen (tonight, 8.55). The film, which follows the life and hard times (through 60 years of Japanese history) of a man who became a blues singer, is much valued by Japanese youth of today, rather than the older generation.

8.55. News.

9.05. Happy Days: American comedy series. Tonight: the Foxes copy elsewhere. In this instance, then, the Personal Choice is mine, though I am assured it is many other people's.

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6.00. Dr. Who: final episode of The Creature from the Pit. Tom Baker and his ridiculous scarf versus The Thing with a secret.

6.25. Larry Grayson's Generation Game: Larry Grayson, Miss St. Clair and his ridiculous scarf versus The Thing with a secret.

7.20. Saturday Night Takeaway: a comedy sketch show.

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7.50. Saturday Night Takeaway: a comedy sketch show.

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8.40. Saturday Night Takeaway: a comedy sketch show.

8.50. Saturday Night Takeaway: a comedy sketch show.

9.00. Saturday Night Takeaway: a comedy sketch show.

9.40. Match of the Day: Jimmy Hill introduces highlights from two of today's Football League matches. Tony Wilson gives his usual football round-up.

10.40. Parkinson: Michael Parkinson's guest is the American singer and composer Bertie Maude who is a respecter of people with sensitive cardrums.

11.40. Weather. Closedown at 11.45.

BBC2

11.15. Open University: 11.15 The first year of life: a new series, one: 11.40. Energy in the home: 12.05. John Rutter: music. Closedown at 12.30.

1.55. International Tennis: The men's singles final in the Benson and Hedges Championships from Wimbledon Arena. Live broadcast.

4.20. Chronicle: Aphrodite's Other Island. The island is Melos, where the Venus de Milo was dug up. Narrator in this repeated documentary is Rexo Cuthbert.

5.10. Rugby Special: Highlights of the century's best matches from the All Blacks and the Northern Division.

6.10. News Review: with visual commentary for the deaf. Richard Whitmore is the presenter.

6.40. The Money Programme: What Bolton City Council are doing to try to cut down on their spending (see Personal Choice).

7.25. The World About Us: Down on the Factory Farm. Repeat of the TV series about intensive methods of food production. Shocking, of course.

8.10. News and weather.

8.20. The South Bank Show: Bryan Haggart, a member of the band, says how many popular favourites, the title cannot be that much of a misnomer. The orchestra is the City of Birmingham Symphony.

9.15. Timothy West as Becham:

11.15. Open University: 11.15 The first year of life: a new series, one: 11.40. Energy in the home: 12.05. John Rutter: music. Closedown at 12.30.

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London Weekend

9.45. Little Rascals: one of the popular American comedies from the far-off Thirties.

9.30. Talking Bites: David Bobin with another programme about motorcycles.

10.00. Morning Worship: Mass from the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Family, Park North, Swindon.

11.00. Getting Out: an encouraging programme for any OAPs who might feel they have outlived their usefulness.

11.30. The Monkeys: frantic adventures of a pop music quartet. Very much a time-filler.

12.00. Weekend World: Brian Walden in the first of a new series, examines Mrs Thatcher's proposals for spending cuts and looks into his wintry crystal ball.

1.00. Cartoons.

1.15. Lost Islands: desert island broken up and whose daughter is the subject of a case of disputed identity. The play won a 1978 Giles Cooper award.

1.45. Police 5: how you can help Scotland Yard.

2.00. Cabbage and Kings: quiz game in which the panelists have to trace famous words back to their source.

2.30. The Big Match: highlights from three of yesterday's league matches.

9.45. Little Rascals: one of the popular American comedies from the far-off Thirties.

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PERSONAL CHOICE

9.45 am. The World of Rugby (The Way Ahead) (r).

10.30. Monty Python's Flying Circus: an all-purpose entertainment, phone-in, and exchange-your-pigeon programme for young viewers. Bizarrely compered by Noel Edmonds. World's fastest runner Sebastian Cox is a guest.

12.12 pm. Weather.

12.15. Grandstand: items include: 12.20 Football Focus: Racing at Ascot at 12.50, 1.25, 1.55 and 2.30; 12.30 International Squash at 1.10 and 1.45; 1.45 International Table Tennis: Benson and Hedges (Champion-ships) at 2.50 and 4.05; Rugby League: Bradford Bulls v. Wakefield Trinity at 3.20; Final Score at 4.40.

3.05. Who Killed Who? (cartoon).

5.15. News: with Richard Whitmore.

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RADIO

Radio 4

6.25 am. Shipping forecast.

6.30. News.

6.32. Farming.

6.50. Yours Faithfully.

7.00. News.

7.40. On Your Farm.

7.40. Today's Papers.

7.45. Yours Faithfully.

7.50. It's a Bargain.

8.00. News.

8.10. Sport on 4.

8.45. Today's Papers.

8.50. Yesterday in Parliament.

9.00. News.

9.10. Sportsday.

9.50. News Stand.

10.05. The Week in Westminster.

10.30. Daily Service.

10.45. Pick of the Week.

11.35. International Assignment.

12.00. News.

12.02. pm. Money Box.

12.07. Comedy First.

12.15. Weather.

1.00. News.

1.10. Any Questions?

1.20. News.

1.30. Sportsday.

2.30. Saturday Afternoon Theatre: Sketches from Life.

3.30. Smith on Saturday.

3.30. Does She Take Sugar?

4.00. News.

4.02. There Were Giants in Those Days.

4.30. Time for Verse.

4.40. The Magic of Music: The Marriage of Figaro.

4.50. Comedy Ending.

5.55. Weather.

6.00. News.

6.15. Sportsday.

6.55. Stop the Week.

7.35. Baker's Dozen.

8.30. Saturday-night Theatre: The Special Cricket from Australia.

10.00. News.

10.15. Lighten Our Darkness.

11.15. Spinners.

11.45. Just Before Midnight: Yorkshire Rubbish.

Radio 3

12.00. News, weather.

12.15-12.30 am. Inshore forecast.

6.30. News.

6.32. Farming.

6.50. Yours Faithfully.

7.00. News.

7.40. On Your Farm.

7.40. Today's Papers.

7.45. Yours Faithfully.

7.50. It's a Bargain.

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Radio 1

5.00 am. As Radio 2. 7.00 News.

7.03. Playground. 8.00. Ed Stewart.

10.00. Tony Blackburn. 1.00 pm. Adrian Juste. 2.00. Paul Gambaccini. 4.00. Rock On. 5.30. It's Your Turn. 6.30. In Concert. 7.30. Peter Powell. 10.00. Al Matthews. 12.00-6.00 am. As Radio 2.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am. With Radio 2. 1.00 pm. With Radio 1. 7.30-6.00 am. With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Britain on the following times: 6.00 am. News. 6.30. News. 7.00. News. 7.30. News. 8.00. News. 8.30. News. 9.00. News. 9.30. News. 10.00. News. 10.30. News. 11.00. News. 11.30. News. 12.00. News. 12.30. News. 1.00. News. 1.30. News. 2.00. News. 2.30. News. 3.00. News. 3.30. News. 4.00. News. 4.30. News. 5.00. News. 5.30. News. 6.00. News. 6.30. News. 7.00. News. 7.30. News. 8.00. News. 8.30. News. 9.00. News. 9.30. News. 10.00. News. 10.30. News. 11.00. News. 11.30. News. 12.00. News. 12.30. News. 1.00. News. 1.30. News. 2.00. News. 2.30. News. 3.00. News. 3.30. News. 4.00. News. 4.30. News. 5.00. News. 5.30. News. 6.00. News. 6.30. News. 7.00. News. 7.30. News. 8.00. News. 8.30. News. 9.00. News. 9.30. News. 10.00. News. 10.30. News. 11.00. News. 11.30. News. 12.00. News. 12.30. News. 1.00. News. 1.30. News. 2.00. News. 2.30. News. 3.00. News. 3.30. News. 4.00. News. 4.30. News. 5.00. News. 5.30. News. 6.00. News. 6.30. News. 7.00. News. 7.30. 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Records of the year: opera

GERMAN

Lulu complete: the event of a generation

Berg
Lulu

DG 2740 213.
4 discs, £18.50

The premiere, at the Paris Opera in February, of *Lulu* complete with its third act, as realized by Friedrich Cerha, was arguably the most important in operatic annals during the past 30 years. With commendable promptitude DG obtained recording rights and took that cast, some minor changes excepted, with the Opera Orchestra and Pierre Boulez, into the IRCAM studio between stage performances. The resultant seven sides (the eighth disappointingly occupied by spoken sleeve-notes in three languages) find them all in top form, voices balanced with ideal clarity against orchestra, musical detail and words (less than ideal German) marvellously appreciable. Teresa Stratas in the name-part, Kenneth Riegel, Franz Mazura, Toni Blankenheim, Jules Bastin and our own Yvonne Minton, Jane Manning and Robert Tear all contribute strongly. At last we can appreciate the dramatic dimensions, the total impact of Berg's scrupulously calculated masterpiece to the full.

Humperdinck
Hansel und Gretel

CBS 79321
2 discs, £7.99 until Jan 1

The "nursery Meistersinger", as some have called this delightful opera, here receives a recording performance fit to rival the EMI Karajan one which still exerts potent charm after 25 years. CBS assembled the strongest imaginable cast from today's most lovable singers, the title roles exquisitely differentiated by Frederica von Stade and Ileana Cotrubas, with Elisabeth Söderström a Witch of inspired, horrible glee and musical insight, Christa Ludwig a monument of overwork and frustration as the Mother, Kiri Te Kanawa and Ruth Welting in tiny parts, the jolly Father of Siegmund Nimsgern, with John Pritchard leading his



Teresa Stratas as Lulu at the Paris Opera

Cologne Opera and able children's choir. The CBS production abounds in atmosphere and relish. If the new performance does not (could not) surpass Karajan's, it is as irresistible in a different way, and merits attention even by those who will never part with the EMI one. Cologne's orchestral rhythms and textures sometimes sound laboured, by comparison, Schwarzkopf and her EMI colleagues less natural in their expression: the comparisons can go on for ever, instructive but not edifying.

Reimann
Lear

DG 2709 087
3 discs, £15.17

Many composers have tried to set Shakespeare's *King Lear* as an opera; Arribert Reimann, persuaded by his occasional recital partner, Fischer-Dieskau, succeeded. I wrote at length about his loyal, darkly glowing, splendidly barbaric *Lear* after last year's Munich Festival. DG has spliced together a recording

from live performances there, and it makes even more impressive listening. The essence of Shakespeare's tragedy is here, the principal characters vividly defined, fearsome or moving in their interaction—not only Fischer-Dieskau's *Lear*, and the greatest operatic impersonation of his great career, but Julia Varady's Cordelia, Helga Dernesch and Collette Larand, diversely venomous as the other daughters, David Kautson dauntless in Mad Tom's ditty-toned floridaria, all under Gerd Albrecht's sympathetic baton. Reimann's music seems even finer, apt, inventive, grandly coloured, perfectly modern yet positively alluring in evocation, and the recording production is of demonstration quality.

Strauss

Die ägyptische Helena

Decca D176D1-3
3 discs, £15.75

This has been a fairly prolific year for Strauss opera on record—the composer died just 30 years ago. For serious collectors this and *Die schweigsame Frau* will be the most desirable.

since they are first recordings. The *Egyptian Helen* is conducted by Antal Dorati who, 51 years ago, coached the Dresden cast just after the premiere and vowed to conduct it one day; this he has achieved with his Detroit Orchestra and with a personal enthusiasm for the score, its tough blocks of harmony, its passionate vocal writing, its exotic colours and deft scherzando music, that deserves to make converts to the work. Gwyneth Jones's Helena is radiantly lovely, occasionally effortful, Barbara Hendrick's Althair quite brilliant, Willard White's Althair secure and virile even in high-flying baritone music. The Menelaus of Matti Kasu at first sounds thick and imprecise, though strong enough; before the end his singing has become more gratifying and his portrayal convincing. The opera is given uncut in its first version, the recorded sound wide in range, the acoustic curiously diverse—perhaps to different indoor from outdoor scenes.

Ariadne auf Naxos

Decca D103D2
3 discs, £13.50

The new Decca *Ariadne*, under

Solti and recorded in London, was clearly planned with love and forethought. The cast led by Leontyne Price and René Kollo (neither entirely free from vocal strain) as Bacchus and Ariadne, supported to the hilt by Gruberova's delectable Zerlina, with Troyanos touching and Arlett as the Composer in the Prologue, many others notably including Erich Kunze as a splendid Mayordomo (he was Harlequin in the first recording 35 years ago). The LPO is in elegant, sparkling form, and too has been asked to correct the failings of the several earlier recordings of *Ariadne*, all of them desirable in some respect. It is a clear first recording, and a handsome album, Columbia or Kempe/HMV.

Elektra

DG 2721 187
2 discs, £7.99

DG's *Elektra*, conducted by Eder and raised almost 10 years later to mark his fifty-fifth birthday, is heavily cut and balanced too much in favour of singers (like the new *Silent Woman*, it comes from Dresden); nor, Fischer-Dieskau apart, do I enjoy the principals as much as those in the Solti/Decca version of a few years ago. But there is much to admire, as is usual when Böhm is at the helm, and the box is favourably priced.

Die schweigsame Frau

BMV SLS 5160
3 discs, £13.10

Die schweigsame Frau (seen at Glyndebourne this summer) was recorded in Dresden, where it too was first staged. Marek Janowski, the conductor, makes much of the music's twinkling grace and fleetness, balancing voices and orchestra with real skill. The principal singers are not flawless: the recorded sound muffles the orchestra and favours the voices; yet Theo Adam's bluff, eager Morosus and Jeannette Scotti's "silent woman" offer more pleasure than of late, and one puts the box away, as one left Glyndebourne, enriched and elated.

William Mann

FRENCH

Vital new look at Beatrice

Berlioz

Beatrice et Benedict

Philips 6700 121
2 discs, £10.45

Colin Davis here has his second stab at a recording of Berlioz's last opera, based on Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. The earlier set is still in the catalogue, and has given joy for years despite some vocal inadequacies. There is, all the same, a sparkle and finesse, and a certainty of style in the new set which opens new windows on appreciation of the piece. It emanates no doubt from Davis's fuller understanding of what is possible and desirable, but also from the beauty and exhilaration of an international cast which can put Jane Baker and Robert Tear into the principal roles, add the limpid, crystalline artistry of Christiane Eda-Pierre as Hero and Jules Bastin memorably revelling in the minor role of the court musician Sotomoro, and pay as much attention to the inflection and timing of the French spoken dialogue as Berlioz evidently did before the premiere. The earlier set is still in the catalogue, and has given joy for years despite some vocal inadequacies. There is, all the same, a sparkle and finesse, and a certainty of style in the new set which opens new windows on appreciation of the piece. It emanates no doubt from Davis's fuller understanding of what is possible and desirable, but also from the beauty and exhilaration of an international cast which can put Jane Baker and Robert Tear into the principal roles, add the limpid, crystalline artistry of Christiane Eda-Pierre as Hero and Jules Bastin memorably revelling in the minor role of the court musician Sotomoro, and pay as much attention to the inflection and timing of the French spoken dialogue as Berlioz evidently did before the premiere. The earlier set is still in the catalogue, and has given joy for years despite some vocal inadequacies. There is, all the same, a sparkle and finesse, and a certainty of style in the new set which opens new windows on appreciation of the piece. It emanates no doubt from Davis's fuller understanding of what is possible and desirable, but also from the beauty and exhilaration of an international cast which can put Jane Baker and Robert Tear into the principal roles, add the limpid, crystalline artistry of Christiane Eda-Pierre as Hero and Jules Bastin memorably revelling in the minor role of the court musician Sotomoro, and pay as much attention to the inflection and timing of the French spoken dialogue as Berlioz evidently did before the premiere.

Gounod

Faust

EMI SLS 5170
4 discs, £18.95

It is almost 20 years since EMI last recorded *Faust*. In 1960 they produced a classic set with Charles Blass and Georges Prêtre, and it is still available on reissue. The new recording again employs the Paris Opera Orchestra, playing with great finesse for Georges Prêtre, a conductor too often underestimated, especially in his own country. Mirella Freni is a little maternally as Marguerite until she reaches the last act and there her power shows. Nicolai

Ghiarov sounds a drier voiced Meffius than he was far younger on the rival Decca set a decade ago. The stars of this new *Faust* are Domingo, almost boyish in his wooing of Marguerite, Thomas Allen, stalwart in timbre and manner as Valentin, and Prêtre himself. The latter music wisely is not allowed to interrupt the action and is placed on the last of the eight sides.

Massenet

Cendrillon

CBS Masterworks 79323
3 discs, £12.49

CBS's admirable investigation of the byways of French opera continues with Massenet's version of the Cinderella story; they are sensible enough to engage two of the artists of last year's successful *Mignon*, Frederica von Stade and Ruth Welting. Von Stade in the title role rightly receives top billing and she has all the best music in an uneven score. Massenet takes his time with Perrault's fairy tale and the music is constantly promising more than it delivers. Julius Rudel and the Philharmonia do their best to persuade one to the contrary. Often in the past Rudel has sounded coarse on record but here he is at his best, his silken sounds, particularly in the Act II Ballroom Scene. Prince Charming for no very good reason has been turned into a tenor (Nicolai Gedda) instead of the soprano Massenet requested. Perhaps La Fée (the excellent Ruth Welting) waved her wand in the wrong direction.

Werther

DG 2709 091
3 discs, £15.17

Ricardo Chailly, who was given far less than his due when he conducted *Don Pasquale* at Covent Garden, really shows his worth in DG's new *Werther*, responding just as keenly as Kodel to Massenet. Once again Domingo carries off the vocal honours in the title role, self-

admirer, head over heels in love and despairing to turn Elena Obraztsova into a staid Charlotte, perhaps a little too staid; Brigitte Fassbinder, the mezzo with whom Domingo sang his first *Werther* (Munich, December, 1977), would have been a more adventurous choice. There is first class support from the rest of the cast, mainly German, to make this the best of the post-war *Werthers*. But anyone coming across the reissue in France of EMI's previous recording with Vallin and Thill should snap it up. A word of warning though: two other *Werther* recordings are in the pipeline.

Saint-Saëns

Samson et Dalila

DG 2531 167-9
3 discs, £15.17

Yet more fine conducting of French opera, this time from Daniel Barenboim in charge of his regular musicians, L'Orchestre de Paris. Barenboim delights in the "exoticism" of Saint-Saëns's score, which in other hands can all too often sound both vulgar and tedious. Many of the finest moments of the recording are purely orchestral.

DG's *Werther* team of Domingo and Obraztsova again leads the cast—it is a comment on the lamentable state of French singing that few companies care to engage native singers for French opera. Obraztsova's command of the language is unimpressive but her operatic tones suit her admirably for Dalila. Domingo, by contrast, handles his words excellently and he is, as every good Samson should be, a tower of strength. Much of the music for the subsidiary characters is dull and none of the supporting singers has Barenboim's power of advocacy. The final praise must go to DG's engineers: a pure acoustic of terms this is the opera set of the year.

reviews by

John Higgins

unless stated

OTHER LANGUAGES

Janacek

Vec Makropoulos

Decca D144D2
2 discs, £11.00

The steady upsurge of interest in Janacek's operas was reflected in the availability of Czech recordings of most of them, even more in the worldwide acclaim last year for Decca's *Kajka Kabanova* recorded in Vienna under Sir Charles Mackerras, with Elisabeth Söderström in the title part. This new set of the *Makropoulos Affair* uses the same forces with results at least as remarkable. At the centre is Söderström's virtuoso impersonation of the opera singer who lived over 300 years, cold and scornful until shortly before the end, then comic in her cups, finally moving in her death scene. Janacek's orchestral music is similarly diverse and rich in detail captured superbly by the VPO and its conductor.

Shostakovich

Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk

EMI SLS 5157
3 discs, £13.10

It seems that the composer revised this notorious opera unwillingly, and told Mstislav Rostropovich that, whenever possible, *Lady Macbeth* rather than *Katerina Ismailova* should be performed. Rostropovich here obliges with a totally committed reading, magnificently played by our LPO, and with a well-blended cast able to sing in Russian—Galina Vishnevskaya riveting, even in squalls, as the doomed lady, Gedda, Petkov, Werner Kraus and many others. The mixture of violent satire and heavy expressionist drama is not entirely convincing artistically, but in performance, especially on record with a bilingual text to follow, it provides a tremendous experience, enhanced by a recorded production of truly spectacular quality.

Britten

Peter Grimes

Philips 6769 014
3 discs, £15.55

Covent Garden's fairly recent new production of *Grimes* has travelled triumphantly to Italy and the Far East, and here it is the famous Decca set conducted by the composer. The Davis/Philips set is, surprisingly, less atmospheric in effect, but compensates with a more intensely human realism, summed up in Jon Vickers' overwhelming portrayal of Grimes himself, and in Davis's intense realisation of the big ensembles and the orchestral interludes (not superior to Britten's reading, but more harsh and immediate). Heather Harper's Ellen is a tower of strength and poignancy.

William Mann

ITALIAN

A preview of Sutherland



Lucrezia Borgia at Her Majesty's Theatre in 1845

A preview of Sutherland

Donizetti

Lucrezia Borgia

Decca D93D3
3 discs, £12.50

It has been a thin year for Donizetti, and for Bellini too for that matter, as far as the major companies are concerned. Decca has kept the flag waving with *Lucrezia*, a valuable addition to the catalogue now that RCA's version with Caballe has gone, and it makes a useful aperitif to Sutherland's return to Covent Garden next spring as the Borgia whose hospitality should be avoided at all costs. The supporting cast is no more than modest: Horne lacks panache as Orsini and Aragall is no Pavarotti as Gennaro, the son who precedes his mother to the tomb. But Sutherland herself is in fine form, while Richard Bonynge turns in one of his best performances so far with the National Philharmonic. Admirably spacious recording.

Leoncavallo

I pagliacci

Mascagni

Cavalleria Rusticana

Decca D93D3
3 discs, £12.50

Pavarotti and the National Philharmonic are the only connecting links in this coupling of the "Inseparables". The latter is severely restrained in either opera, but the results are exciting, particularly when he is up against Julia Varady's aggrieved and aggressive Santuzza in *Cav*. We should have much more of the Hungarian soprano in various operas. By contrast Mirella Freni's Nedda is a shade pale. Both the Decca conductors, Gavazzeni and Patane, are easily outshined by Karajan on the 1965 DG set which has recently been reissued.

Mozart

Don Giovanni

Decca D162D4
4 discs, £21.00

CBS Masterworks 79321, 3 discs, £12.49 until January 1

Two new *Giovannis* came hot on one another's heels in the autumn. CBS wins easily on price and has a fiery, virile protagonist in Ruggero Raimondi, but the rest of the cast with the exception of Kiri Te Kanawa's Elvira is not impressive. Jose van Dam's Leporello has too much of his master's voice, which is fine on stage—or on film in this case—but a positive disadvantage on record. And therein lies the trouble. CBS's *Giovanni* is the product of Joseph Losey's film of Mozart's opera, which was promised for this month's London Film Festival but so far has been seen only in New York. The transfer to disc has not been well done.

No such structures can be applied to Solti's version for Decca, where the engineers have worked admirably. The opera is complete, including the Leporello/Zerlina encounter in Act II. Solti's conducting of both the ensembles and the LPO has vigour and fine precision. The men, Stuart Burrows's Ottavio apart, are outshined by the ladies. Waltraud Meier as Zerlina and Luciano Pavarotti as Leporello is irritatingly fruity. The *Innocents* are above all to Margaret Price, one of the finest Italian vocalists in the world, and Lucia Popp's Zerlina. The best of the many available *Giovannis* probably remains Giulini on EMI.

Puccini

Turandot

EMI SLS 741
3 discs, £13.95

One of the most important reissues of the year. Critics' detractors may say that it was ideally cast as Puccini's icy princess, but few sopranos have allowed themselves to melt as effectively as Callas in the final act. Schwarzkopf's Liu is one of her finest interpretations on record and the set also allows a chance to rehearse Eugenio Fernandi, who had only a brief career in the studio set proved to be an outstanding Calla. This issue has not been reprocessed in stereo, somewhat to the detriment of Serafin and the Scala orchestra.

Rossini

Otello

Philips 6769 023
3 discs, £12.79

The most attractive operatic Rossini's *Otello* decade ago and proved that anyone prepared to forget Shakespeare, Boito and Verdi (see below)

Le nozze di Figaro

4 discs, £21.00
Decca D132D4

Ponnelle's Salzburg production of Figaro has proved far more durable than might have been suspected when the critics savaged it in the early seventies. With an occasional cast change it has remained in the Festival repertoire and Karajan has stayed faithful to it. The Salzburg forces are full of life on this Decca set and Karajan sets the pace with a whizzing overture. As in Decca's *Giovanni* the ladies steal the attention: von Stade's impassioned Cherubino, Cotrubas's quicksilver Susanna, and Tomowa-Sitowa, every inch a Countess. Neither of the men, Krause as the Count and van Dam as his valet, has the ideal menace implicit in the score. All in all, a highly recommended set, not least for Karajan's own contribution. However, the reissue earlier in the year of Giulini's version on the mid-price label should be noted (SLS 5152).

Paer

Leonora

Decca D130D3
3 discs, £15.75

Fidelio in Italian! The libretto set by Paer is almost word for word that given to Beethoven—they had a common source in what Bouilly wrote in French for Caveaux (perhaps this will one day be recorded commercially—though without some of the great moments that we treasure in *Fidelio*). Paer's version antedates Beethoven's by a year; he saw the Vienna premiere after his own first recension had been staged, but before the third revision nowdays familiar. There are some thematic and textual similarities, some harmonies too that Beethoven surely borrowed, and not only for his final version. The differences between the Paer and Beethoven are quite fascinating, and this set most keenly recommends itself to all devotees of *Fidelio*.

Paer Mass conducts it with affection and fervour, strongly supported by Ursula Komst in the title role, Siegfried Jerolimov as Florestan and Editha Gruberova in the last important part of Marcellina. The music is more florid than Beethoven's, sometimes tending to these singers and their colleagues, and it has interested recitatives instead of Beethoven's spoken dialogue. Mass has turned some of these into orchestral accompaniment, as some ears will remark incredulously.—William Mann.

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3 discs, £12.79

The most attractive operatic Rossini's *Otello* decade ago and proved that anyone prepared to forget Shakespeare, Boito and Verdi (see below)

would find themselves company of a fascina Von Stade and Carr the case with singing as it is elegant. The couple of unfamiliar nicely differentiated Lopez-Cobos and harmonia play the Vasech to here as the Barber. A highling issue backed b recording quality.

Verdi

Un ballo in maschi

Philips 6769 020
3 discs, £12.79

Agate the good quality Philips, but despite put into the record. Davis and his Cov forces this is a obstinately refuses Carreras. Calla in with although less wial the Rossini above, b Amelia rarely suggest likely to engage heart. Ingar Wixell ing in character, a classed by his rival sets. The recomme remains Muti on E!

La battaglia di L.

Philips 6700 121
2 discs, £10.45

The last issue: invaluable exploration Verdi is well up i chunks mainly to Ga blooded. conductin Austrian Radio Oec score which certal Carreras. Calla in with although less wial the Rossini above, b Amelia rarely suggest likely to engage heart. Ingar Wixell ing in character, a classed by his rival sets. The recomme remains Muti on E!

Don Carlo

EMI SLS 5154
4 discs, £21.00

The second of Salzburg-based sets. He leaves version of the o Salzburg, beginning in the cathedral o and this adds sy work which can stage. The cast important change Festival: Ballo is passionate Eboli: a great improvement Cossetto on stage. C has shared the tit Domingo in the it in the recording tentatively to beg rest of the cast is, good. Freni, Raimondi through i in the tiny part in the recording a dynamic range for Philharmonic which you reaching for. A red-blooded set.

Otello

RCA RLO 295
3 discs, £12.75

Domingo's Otello, i last. The quality of ing could have bee there the comp Domingo and Mi byson of Janu 4. The partnership it started in Hamburg that September eve established the O generation. Rema worthy partner. If time before this surpassed.

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York champion in just minutes and by the Lo champion in just a few minutes.

Birmingham Grand. March 18: 82 comp winners, Dr John Sykes, copographer of Abingdon times previously national pion); second, Mr Meade, civil servant o renham.

Edinburgh George April 1: 54 competitors only one qualified f National Final, the win Rev Colin Morton of pans.

York Viking Hotel, A 72 competitors: winner (tie-break) Mr Wilfrid solicitor of Halam near well; second Mr Joseph

Solihull, or bridge
 11: 32 competitors:
 Mr William Pilkington
 government officer at
 second: Mr Peter Broad
 a garage agent
 Chester Grosvenor Hot
 20: 71 competitors:
 Mr Harry Hodgson, c
 director of the
 Mr Geoffrey H
 consultant at Crydland.
 London: A Piccadilly
 June 23: 175 champion
 ner, Mr Roy Dean, dip
 James, 1954 champion
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 of London (twice the
 the champion) and Mr Tom
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 June 24: 156 competitor
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 Keeningson second, Si
 1954 champion, 1955
 Bromley; third, Miss
 Gee, house mistress at

Norman Mailer: a good, quick book

I was getting fonder and fonder

"My father was a marvellous fellow—in the middle of the Depression when he was dead broke and hadn't a job he'd be wearing spats—my mother was a very hard worker and after many years of taking after my father, I'm now taking after my mother."

What of Mailer the politician, co-founder of the radical newspaper *The Village Voice*, and one-time candidate as Mayor of

Oxfam's normal role is to provide funds and expertise for small-scale agricultural, sanitary and other projects in third-world villages. It usually also makes an emergency cash donation whenever natural disasters strike. Now it has been cat-

Britain's only Specialist on Domestic, Office and Factory
Humidification. Research based organisation now in its twelfth
year. Disseminators of information from leading Universities
and Scientists, including Swiss Institute of Hygiene and Work
Physiology. Sponsors of 3 year research project at Sheffield
University. IN79

They joined the circuit in 1969 and they were quickly about seven or eight major championships—coupled with the Davis Cup—that you geared your season around. Nowdays the top guys still prepare for the major championships. They don't play as much as the rest of us, who play on 16 tournaments a year. But I am going to recommend a special ATP classification of three MEs a year—withdrawal from the tour without explanation, medical note not required.

Like many of Gorman's jokes this had a germ of sincerity in it.

The British Challenge

In the absence of Christopher Evert and Susan Barker—who did not enter the British challenge at Wembley this week and Brighton next week, it

promoters on holiday with their parents at the Taylors' resort at Vale do Lobo, near Algarve. The recently completed tennis facility, which he designed himself, has 12 courts, a swimming pool, a bar, a swimming pool, saunas, and a bar and restaurant.

In Britain Taylor does his part-time work with juniors on the Tennis Association. "But there's not much continuity for players and coaches who form a team," he says. "I get no money. The pity of the British game is that we're having to look elsewhere for income."

The advertised prize money is no consolation. It is not all it seems. On the Grand Prix circuit, for example, 12.5 per cent is automatically lopped off for the bonus pool. The players have to take the problem common to all of us and often the mortgage problems too.

Fourteen of these 15 q
from the regional film
David Hunt being un
attend) met the 1978 ci

(representing) an average of 1000 miles under the pump), and the 14 regional champion a original 1970 national of Mc Roy Dean.

The Silver Trophy, the 1st place of the 1970 Cutty Scarf Scotch Whisky presented by Mr John A. McRoy, is awarded to the television set. Other prize-winners were the up, Dr John Sykes, with bonus points, who received for two in the 1970 national of Mc Roy Dean. The 1970 bonus points (weekend in Amsterdam) and 1 Sever with 55 time bonus (weekend for two in the 1970 national of Mc Roy Dean).

The prizes were also awarded to the next four finalist Cynthia Gee, Mr Harrison, Mr Philip Meade and 1978 champion, Mr Eric McRoy, who won his success to luck. Laws of chance and prize hardly explain how three places in the Championship were taken in the 1970 of the only four to have won the cham

Details of the 1980 Cr. Championship will be published in January.

Edmund Ake

Crossbar

In 1967 they compete
as a grand in con
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Next year WCT are
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or the leading players
massive international
sponsors naturally

The spite, pettiness,
and plain foul

all this are too distasteful to discuss. But it will solve the problem if Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, and Andre Agassi are persuaded to play in a suggested exhibition series in Toronto next week.

0 FT	857134	5 BK	937874
1 FT	000707	15 VN	060721
2 JP	132074	16 VN	000721
3 VN	132074	17 VN	100721
4 VN	132074	18 VN	000721
5 VN	132074	19 VN	000721
6 VN	132074	20 VN	000721
7 VN	132074	21 VN	000721
8 VN	132074	22 VN	000721
9 VN	132074	23 VN	000721
0 QN	132732	24 VN	000721

0 FT	857134	5 BK	937874
1 FT	000707	15 VN	060721
2 JP	132074	16 VN	000721
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6 VN	132074	20 VN	000721
7 VN	132074	21 VN	000721
8 VN	132074	22 VN	000721
9 VN	132074	23 VN	000721
0 QN	132732	24 VN	000721

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 22 and 23

Stock markets

FT 100 497.0 up 0.7
FT 300 64.49 up 1.18

Sterling

\$2.1590 up 1.35 cents
Index 69.4 up 0.5

Dollar

Index 86.9 down 0.3

Gold

\$390.5 an ounce up \$6.5

3-month money

Inter-bank 17 1/2 to 17 3/4
Euro 5 1/2 to 15 1/2

IN BRIEF

American

ates reach

new peak

of 15 1/2 pc

American interest rates rose to a record level yesterday, following a report that the Federal Reserve had raised its discount rate to 15 1/2 per cent.

The move was widely expected, as the Fed had raised its rate in July and August.

The new rate was the highest since 1969, when it was raised to 12 per cent.

The Fed said it was raising the rate to combat inflation.

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Chancellor gives warning of jobs at risk unless pay demands are modified

By David Blake

Economics Editor

As new figures showed inflation rising and output falling in the economy, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, last night launched an attempt to persuade unions to curtail their wage demands this winter.

In a speech defending the Government's action this week in pushing interest rates to new record highs, Sir Geoffrey gave a warning that unless settlements during the coming months could "cripple employers and destroy jobs".

Sir Geoffrey backed up his warning with a tough restatement of the Government's determination to hold down the money supply and to limit public borrowing. But in one of the few glimmers of economic optimism this week, he seemed to suggest that determined action to hold down the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement might reduce the need for a prolonged period of high interest rates.

The Chancellor's call for pay restraint was made at a dinner of the Institute of Bankers, in London, at the end of a day in which new figures for the Retail Price Index (RPI) showed that prices rose by 1 per cent in October, bringing the rate of inflation for the 12 months to October up to 12.2 per cent.

The underlying rate of inflation over the previous six months, after excluding seasonal food, was far higher at 21 per cent.

Much of the inflation in the past six months has been caused by the Government's own action in pushing up the rate of VAT in the Budget in order

to pay for cuts in income tax. The relatively new Tax and Prices Index (TPI), which includes changes in income tax, is showing an increase of only 1.6 per cent over the past year, compared to the 17.2 per cent for RPI, the more conventional definition of inflation.

The Government had hoped to focus pay negotiators' attention on the TPI to show them the benefits they gain from income tax reductions, but so far this index seems to have had little effect.

Pay settlements are well above the level implied by the Government's monetary policy of allowing money supply to grow by no more than 11 per cent. The consequent increase in earnings will probably keep the inflation rate rising well into next year, when it is expected to peak just below the 20 per cent mark.

The conflict between this level of inflation and the limits on monetary growth are expected to lead to a sharp downturn in output. A forecast of that came in the latest figures for gross domestic product, which showed a 2 per cent fall in the third quarter from the level reached in the second quarter of the year. This represents a high drop for variations by usual standards, only exceeded in recent years by the performance during the three-day week in 1974. But the latest figure is distorted by the impact of the engineering strike, which has badly hurt manufacturing output very heavily during August and September. The underlying rate was thus almost certainly less.

Clearly there is irritation in Government circles about the way in which bank lending has grown in spite of calls to hold it down, and there are suggestions that the banking system is badly skewed by the Government's monetary policy. It is felt that more should be done by the banks to ensure that the tight policy on lending is maintained to their branch networks and that savers who take credit decisions.

The dollar plunged in hectic trading on the foreign exchange markets yesterday after reports that Iran was to stop accepting dollars in payments for its oil.

However, Ali Akbar Mojtahedi, the Iranian Oil Minister, said yesterday that the Iranian Government had not given instructions to refuse dollars in payment for Iranian crude oil.

The oil minister said that the Iranian Government would continue to accept dollars in payment for its oil.

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Bank base rates move up to 17 pc

By John Whitmore

The severity of the Government's squeeze on the personal borrower began to show yesterday with all the big banks raising their base lending rates to 17 per cent, and the building societies revealing that they intended to move rapidly to raise mortgage rates, possibly as high as 15 per cent.

A decision on mortgage rates will be announced next Thursday after an emergency meeting of the Council of the Building Societies Association, Mr Leonard Williams, chairman of the BSA, said yesterday that he had called the meeting after consulting with colleagues.

It had seemed clear to them from the Government's decision to improve the attractiveness of National Savings early next year that the high interest rates could be with us for some time.

As a result, many societies felt that there was no point in waiting to raise their rates until the flow of money into the societies reduced to a trickle.

Indeed, it may well be that the societies will decide to raise the investment rate from December 1. In that case, additional increases in the mortgage rate, already due to rise from 11 1/2 to 12 1/2 per cent, would take effect from January 1, or as soon as contractually and administratively possible.

How high the societies will raise their rates remains to be seen, but the effect of the decision to raise the Bank of England's minimum lending rate to 17 per cent appears to be that the benchmark for retail deposits will settle at around 15 per cent.

The clearing banks yesterday raised their deposit rates to 15 per cent and the rate of interest on National Savings accounts rises to the same level in the New Year.

The government will also be introducing a new National Savings certificate in February, offering a net rate of return of 10.33 per cent over a five year period, equivalent to 14 1/2 per cent gross to a basic rate taxpayer.

If the building societies decide that they must match a 15 per cent gross return, then the rate offered on share accounts will rise from the present 8.75 per cent to 10.5 per cent.

In turn, however, this will almost certainly involve a 15 per cent mortgage rate. That would raise monthly repayments on a £10,000 25 year mortgage from £104 at present to £129. A 14 per cent mortgage rate would raise the monthly repayment to £121.

Bank shares were better as National Westminster made its second base rate change this week, bringing it into line with the 17 per cent base rate. Southern Rhodesian bonds were again good on settlement hopes.

Figures from the American Petroleum Institute show that the United States remains in a strong position to cope with a drop in the total of the 700,000 barrels a day of imports from Iran, should it become necessary. At the end of last week, stocks of crude oil were higher than the previous week and higher than a year ago before the Shah was overthrown.

But the United States authorities are worried that the effect of its embargo on Iran oil imports.

There have been reports of Japan being asked to pay high prices to secure Iranian crude. But Imperial believes that moves towards lower engine capacities could solve much of the fuel problem without reducing trade.

To pay for "Ho-Jo", Imperial intends to run off £218m of its gilt holdings and £180m of its Treasury bills. The effect would be to lift gearing from around 50 to nearer 65 per cent.

Howard Johnson made a

post-tax profit of \$33.6m last year, and although figures for the nine-months to September show only a modest advance to \$29.2m, the group was hit in the third quarter by uncertainties over petrol supplies.

Fears about future supplies have led to doubts about "Ho-Jo's" future earnings growth. The chain relies heavily on highway trade for its business and would be vulnerable to fuel shortages. But Imperial believes that moves towards lower engine capacities could solve much of the fuel problem without reducing trade.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Now is the time to review your strategy

Face to face with a fully armed and vicious credit squeeze it is a foolish man or woman who does not run for cover.

Before looking at the investment opportunities look at your liabilities—bank overdrafts, loans, credit card debts and mortgage: in short, all forms of borrowing. For now is the time to come to the aid of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his attempt to get money supply under control, if not for patriotic reasons for your own pocket's sake.

With minimum lending rate at a punitive 17 per cent and bank base rates following suit, overdraft interest is now over 20 per cent. You may think that you can shelter behind your credit card's interest rate of 25.0 per cent, but that, too, is likely to be short-lived.

Higher interest rates are expected on Monday. Despite the new and attractive rates of interest which are now being paid to savers, it is not the time to hold cash or short-term savings at the expense of repaying your debts. For even the best returns of 15-16 per cent fade into insignificance beside the cost of borrowed money.

You might argue that the money is being held on deposit in anticipation of a market upturn later. There are people now saying that they can hear the bell which rings at the bottom of the market: unfortunately, no one knows when the actual recovery will come. It could be an hour, as we believe, or not until well into next year.

So remember that if you do borrow money to invest—which is in effect what you are doing if you prefer not to repay debt—with dealing expenses and stamp duty any investment you make will have to rise by about 27 per cent a year to put you at break-even point with your debt.

It is a demanding requirement to make of any share, particularly if the equity market remains in the cold for any length of time. Getting in and out after a quick, short rise would be a different matter, of course, and there

will be some exceptions to the equity doldrums.

The high yields now available on some first class industrial companies, which should be able to preserve their dividends in a recession, will underpin the equity market to some extent, but attention will be mainly focused on gilts and the wide range of fixed interest investments with their competing returns.

As the accompanying table shows, the choice for savers in search of high income has never been greater. There is a spread which embraces both long and short-term investment, and fixed interest investment with variable as well as fixed capital.

But, with inflation edging upwards to the 20 per cent mark again, investors should remember that real returns on their money might not be so easy to achieve this coming year. Certainly, there is little in the table apart from the Retirement issue of National Savings Certificates linked to the Retail Price Index which is guaranteed to show a positive return.

This brings us back to gilts. Has the market begun to recover a little of its equilibrium after the long slithering two months of declining gilt prices? The corrective measures announced on Thursday by the Chancellor may have been greeted with outrage outside the markets and some scepticism inside, but as a short-term palliative, at least, they should be doing the trick, and before the new tap was announced demand was strong for the new long-dated, stock yielding 15½ per cent.

There is time enough in this market for both the small investor, who, when he returns should consider the much cheaper method of purchasing government stocks on the National Savings Stock Register over the post office counter, and the institutions.

Private investors often have perceptions and needs which are different from those of their institutional counterparts. They are either more cautious or, conversely, more willing

and able to take risks than the long-term managers of insurance and pension funds.

Tax and each individual's own tax bracket play an important part in his investment decisions, which cannot be isolated from his overall personal investment and financial requirements.

On these pages we are trying to cater for the complete financial man or woman, and provide him with an operating philosophy. The balance, for instance, has to be struck between securing financial protection for oneself and family and an investment programme aimed at securing financial independence.

First and foremost must come the protection afforded by life assurance, although the amount and extent of that protection will vary according to individual circumstances. So this will be a continuing feature of our family finance coverage.

On the other hand, the particular tax concessions which are attached to life assurance make it also a suitable medium for investment and there is little doubt that companies manipulating those concessions in ways never originally envisaged. While fiscal neutrality—broadly interpreted as a plea that all savings institutions should enjoy the same tax privileges—is the battle cry of the institutional have-nots, we will remain neutral in a different way.

It is not the job of these pages, although it may be elsewhere in the paper, to take sides or pass judgement. The criterion remains: is it a good investment?

It is our job to identify the issues, questions and situations where investors, policyholders, taxpayers, mortgagors, savers and prospective pensioners need positive, practical advice. In addition, we are now able to deal with individual readers' queries on law, tax and insurance in the new Readers' Forum column.

Margaret Stone

INTEREST RATES FOR SAVERS

	Stated Yield	25%	30%	45%
Savings Certificates (18th issue) 5 years	8.45	11.27	12.07	15.36
Saving Certificates 19th issue 5 yrs (Feb. 1980)	10.13	13.77	14.75	18.78
British Savings Bonds 5 yrs	9.50	10.64	10.82	10.77
National Savings Bank—Ordinary A/c	5.00*	5.87*	7.14*	9.09
Trustee Savings Bank—Savings A/c	4.00	4.00†	4.00†	4.00†
National Savings Bank—Investment A/c	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50
National Savings Bank Inv A/c Jan 1	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Trustee Savings Bank—Special Deposit A/c	12.14	12.14	12.14	12.14
Trustee Savings Bank—Term Deposits	11.12	11.12	11.12	11.12
Finance House Deposits	14.86	14.86	14.86	14.86
Bank Deposits	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Local Authorities—1-2 yrs	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
Save-As-You-Earn (2nd issue)—5 years	8.80**	11.07	11.88	15.09
(3rd issue)—index linked	8.82**	11.49	12.31	15.87
Building Societies—Savings Shares	10.00***	13.33	14.29	14.29
—Shares	8.75***	11.67	12.50	12.50
—Term Shares—5 Years	10.75***	14.33	15.36	15.36
—Insurance linked—4 years	14.09	18.79	20.13	24.35
—Insurance linked—10 years	10.20	13.80	14.57	18.65
British Government Securities—1-5 years	18.25	15.25	15.25	15.25
—5-10 years	14.36	14.36	14.36	14.36
—over 10 years	15.13	15.13	15.13	15.13

NOTES: *Tax free on first £70 of interest only **Tax free; ***Tax paid at basic rate; † After 20 November.

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Double or quits

Going for a spin with Dunlop

Most new columns start with a greeting. This one is different. It starts with a warning that the title means what it says. The appeal is to those whose appetites are so jaded that only the thrill of losing and occasionally making money dangerously will enliven a dull day.

The unthinking will object that this is an odd time to begin a series of irresponsible share tips. Can I not see that the hue of the stockmarket is sickled over with the pale cast of recession?

Indeed I can; and that is why this is the ideal time to run a column that from time to time, certainly not from week to week, will concentrate on a twirl of world of shares, convertibles and so on which lead lives all of their own.

So I shall try and avoid shares that simply move with the market—blue chips and most second line stocks—which seem to be the only ones left to go down in the coming months rather than up.

And so to the game. Why not a flutter on Dunlop, our most famous tyre maker, second after Michelin in Europe though smaller of course than the American giants, Goodyear, Firestone, Uniroyal and Goodrich.

Tyres have slumped worldwide, Dunlop is barely profitable and it has its debts. So the 50p shares are a poorly 44p and yield more than 17 per cent, indicating that the market thinks the dividend will be cut. The gamble is that it will not be, that investors will come to see this, and that in time the shares will eventually double.

Fairheads say that Dunlop is another Leyland; I disagree. At worst it is much better equipped than Leyland to sell profitable interests in plantations and sports goods, and raise enough money to swamp its present market capitalisation.

On the brighter side, Dunlop's scope for making real money once tyre business turns up is huge. The latest interim report showed sales of £766m and pre-tax profits of £16m.

Peter Wainwright

Income bonds

Short-term bond bandwagon rolls

At the beginning of last month Skandia Life started the ball rolling in short-term guaranteed bonds by launching a two-year bond. Since then more offices have introduced either one or two-year bonds, or both.

Business is booming. Not only are the bonds profitable for the companies, but they also offer very attractive returns for the investor. On one-year bonds he can have an annual yield of up to 15 per cent net of basic rate tax, with a little less on the two-year bonds. These rates are extremely attractive compared with other short-term bonds for cash and are available by signing along the dotted line. Merchant investors point out that income on a £1,000 investment in its one-year bond would drop by £106 to £24 in the absence of tax relief, a non-starter in investment terms.

Many observers feel that the life companies offering these bonds have crossed the delicate line between "soft core" tax avoidance and "hard core" tax avoidance. The Life Office's Association disapproves of these plans on the basis that life assurance premium relief is designed for the longer term policyholder. Fears have been expressed that these plans will provoke the Revenue to tighten up the clawback rules in general, which could have repercussions throughout the industry.

It is, of course, likely that the Revenue will call a halt to these short-term bonds in the next Budget, if not before. Even though they account for only a very small part of the life assurance market, the plans could easily mushroom and create widespread abuse of the tax relief concessions.

At present the only restraint on investors in these bonds is the level of premiums that are eligible for such relief. This amounts to a maximum of one sixth of total income, or £1,500, whichever is the greater.

It was ironically the Government that helped the life companies to give a simple marketing approach to these schemes by changing the method of allotting tax relief. Until April this year, the investor paid his premiums gross and claimed relief from the Revenue through his tax code. Now he simply pays the net premium and the life office claims the relief.

Even if the Revenue allows the bonds to ride until the next Budget, companies will have to rethink their marketing strategy before the "cooling off" period on "qualifying"

life policies comes in at the beginning of next year. This gives the holder the opportunity to make such a policy penalty within a fortnight of taking it out.

As far as the life companies are concerned these bonds are only as a package. The life on the annual plan subsidises the income on the single premium. On its own the latter commercial concern. B January the investor could make the annual premium and hold on to the income during single-premium so doing he would earn the same amount come for half the investment in the case of a year bond—getting a return of 25 per cent net rate tax at the expense life office.

Yields on these policies, of course, are sensitive to reduction in the level of relief on premiums. The rate of 17½ per cent, a basic rate tax of 30 per cent, is proportionately high. It has been in previous years that it is possible that a cut in this rate in Budget. But the Government has given the industry a year's notice of any change in this rate. Reductions announced now come into effect in 1981.

One-year bondholders as far as the yield money is concerned, suffer a loss for those in two-year bonds. If a year in the tax relief rate is reduced next year, the a reduced return on investment from April, 1981.

Sally Mico

BOND YIELDS

Company	Minimum Investment	Yield p.a.*	Frequency of Income payments
1 year bonds			
Albany Life	£500	15.0%	Half yearly
Liberty Life	£500	15.8%	At end of term
Merchant Investors	£1,000	15.0%	At end of term
Property Equity & Life	£1,000	15.0%	At end of term
2 year bonds			
Liberty Life	£500	14.8%	Annually
Merchant Investors	£1,000	12.5%	Annually
Skandia Life	£2,000	14.0%	Annually

* net of basic rate tax

Action point

Some of my best friends, as the cliché goes, work for the Trustee Savings Bank, but that does not alter my opinion that some 74 million of their savings accounts customers should consider closing these accounts, which have a collective worth of £1.5bn.

At midnight on Tuesday those savers lose the right to a tax-free interest of up to £70 a year. In future, the 4 per cent interest payable on their accounts will be subject to income tax at the individual's own tax rate.

The actual amount held by individual savings accounts customers is not large. The average holding is £196, and the TSB

argues that such customers are not particularly concerned about the interest earned on the accounts, but are happy to keep them alive for reasons which are a combination of nostalgia and the convenience of a savings passbook, where each transaction is immediately recorded.

The nostalgia argument is unanswerable; either it influences an account holder or it does not. But I would dispute the contention that people are not greatly concerned about modest interest payments. Look at the importance with which the pensioners' £10 Christmas bonus is viewed.

Why should anyone suffer a voluntary

cutback in interest, however small, amount of interest on that £196 savings account this year is £7 year it will be (for basic rate) £2.54. Yet if the same person is holding the holding to the state National Bank, which also uses a passbook, many more branches into the bank interest would rise to £9.90.

The incidence of taxation on a specific problem for parents children with TSB savings accounts. Interest of over £15 a year is to the Inland Revenue and, in the children, will be aggregated with their parents.

Grouse

Where a maintenance order is made out to, rather than for the support of children, it is counted as their, rather than the mother's income, with a resulting lowering of the overall tax burden. Children can be given income up to the level of their own personal tax allowance before it becomes taxable.

The Department of Health and Social Security, on the other hand, has recently sent out instructions that maintenance payments to children be counted as a woman's income when assessing her own contribution to family support.

It claims that a "loop-hole" in the law was being exploited by divorcing couples, who agreed that no substantial sums of maintenance would be paid to

children, with nothing for the wife, who could then claim social security to boost her income.

But there are plenty of instances where it is not a loophole. A former wife who has remarried, for instance, and has no claim on her first husband, may still be receiving maintenance for, or rather to, his dependent children. If her second husband leaves her without funds she may apply to the DHSS for herself, and any subsequent children.

She will find that maintenance paid for the children of her first marriage is used to reduce the total amount to which she is entitled. The first husband ends up supporting his remarried former wife—a situation which no court in the land has the power to order.

Is one within one's legal rights in refusing to give the name of one's insurance company to the other party's insurers, and then threatening to take them to court unless they settle the bill direct with oneself? If not, is there some form of words which one can use in communicating with one's own insurance company to prevent (or at least deter) them from entering into a knock-knock arrangement? (WB, Kent)

There is nothing to compel you to disclose the name of your motor insurers to anybody else, unless there has been personal injury. You should, however, tell your own insurers of an accident, even though you hope it will not be necessary to claim; you can say you hope to make a recovery from the other motorist.

Is it legally permitted to reserve a parking space? Trying to park in the West End I was confronted by a man who blocked my way as I was about to enter a meter bay. Waving his umbrella he refused to move, saying he was reserving the space for his wife who was driving round the block. I drove off in annoyance, but would I have been justified in easing forward and edging him out of the way? (MJJ, London)

No, he cannot reserve a parking space. By blocking your path and refusing to move when asked, the pedestrian was himself committing the offence of obstruction by "wilfully obstructing the free passage along the highway". This is unlawful unless he has lawful authority or excuse. Had you called a police officer he could have been arrested, had he refused to go. You might have asked his name and address and threatened to report him.

Although you would in theory be entitled to use reasonable means to "abate the nuisance" caused by his wilful obstruction, bull-dozing him aside might not be viewed kindly by a court, particularly if he were hurt. For example, he might accuse you of assault or even dangerous driving.

A self-employed friend who works from home had agreed a fixed proportion of his home costs as a deductible business expense for income tax purposes. He subsequently sold the house some time ago and recently received a capital gains tax assessment based on a similar proportion of the gain. The tax involved was some £300. Could not a claim be resisted under the £1,000 exemption rule? (KCB, Bristol)

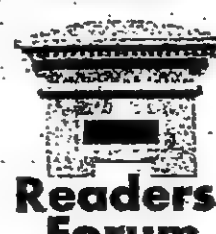
As you mention, the sale took place "some time ago" and the house was sold at a profit. The exemption limit of £1,000 for the tax years 1975-76 and 1976-77, referred to the sale proceeds. So not the amount of the gain, so if the sale took place during this period the gain would not escape tax. However, the rules were considerably relaxed from April 6, 1977 onwards so the £1,000 exemption limit referring to the amount of the gain itself. If, therefore, the sale took place after April 5, 1977, the gain of £300 would escape tax provided the total gains for the tax year did not exceed £1,000.

Incidentally, if your friend had invested the proceeds of the sale in another house from which he worked it is possible that "rollover relief" could be claimed.

I invested £2,000 in a commodity syndicate in 1975. They traded in futures and the intention was that they would make a capital gain for me. (no income was paid). I made a capital gain and have now had a claim from the Inland Revenue under Schedule D and the Inland Revenue are

Disclosing names • Parking • Capital gains and houses

This specialist readers service has been compiled with the help of John Drummond, Vera Di Palma and Ronald Irving.



Readers' Forum

arguing over whether it should be Case I or Case VI, on the grounds that futures are not investments in the true sense as they do not yield income. (I had a work of art to set off against the gain, but no trading losses; it is a matter of some interest to me that it should if possible be assessed as a capital gain and not a trading profit. (G.A., Worthing))

Unfortunately there is nothing in the taxing Acts to counter the Inland Revenue's view that the gain is of an income nature rather than capital and litigation in the courts has tended to support the taxman's approach. For example, in considering whether a transaction is or is not a trade, two important guidelines were laid down in CIR v Fraser which required the answer to two questions: does the object purchased give the buyer aesthetic enjoyment (such as a work of art) or does it give potential income (such as investment in land or buildings) while he continues to hold it? If the answer to both questions is in the negative then a purchase and sale appears *prima facie* to be in the nature of trade. All you can do is to press to be assessed under Case I (as earned income) rather than Case VI (unearned income).

Do you know of any companies which will issue a term assurance policy to a retired civil servant (in excellent health) who has just reached the age of 70 with a sum insured of, say £10,000-£15,000? I have had term insurance with Commercial Union for the past 10 years, but they now inform me that the minimum sum has been raised to £25,000, the annual premium for which would be £556.50 for a three-year term and £643.40 for a five-year term. This proposal goes beyond my own needs and pocket! I simply need to provide some additional money for my wife in the event of my predeceasing her. Her insurance would be to use most of it to purchase an immediate annuity. (CB, Guisley)

Among the commission paying offices, Phoenix charges £546 a year for a £12,000 policy for five years, or £713.28 a year for 10 years. Among the non-commission paying offices, the London Life Association is quoting £245.44 a year for £12,000 (minimum) policy for five years, or £375.20 for 10 years. The drawback to term assurance is that you could survive to the end of the term and have paid quite a lot of premium—when it would be very expensive to arrange further cover. Instead, therefore, it could be a good plan to take a whole-life policy—which will cover you until death. The two insurers mentioned above quote £874.80 and £808 per annum, respectively. While term assurance offers no return if you do not claim, should your wife predecease you, probably it would be possible to surrender a whole life policy for cash.

I was recently interested in buying a vintage car and was willing to pay the price asked on the understanding that the seller would undertake to meet the cost of certain repairs. He later wrote to me agreeing to my request but his letter was headed "without prejudice". What is the exact legal significance of these words? (REB, Woking)

In a nutshell "without prejudice" means that the offeror makes his offer without admission of liability. As used by the seller in the context of his letter the expression has no legal significance. The expression applies only where someone makes a claim which is disputed.

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Investor's week

New stocks
give gilts
breather
at last

It was one of those weeks when we were meant to feel that the Government had passed an important test. It was the unceremonious dumping of lumps of gilt-edged stock on the market which the authorities had managed to do in a way that showed that the Government was not over-weighed by the market. It was the fact that the price was high, according to some, and that it was too high if it could show that the market was not over-weighed by the market. It was the fact that the price was high, according to some, and that it was too high if it could show that the market was not over-weighed by the market.

The latest measures in so far as they work, mean an even sharper downturn in the economy with all that means a pressure on profit margins. There is also the possibility—only that at present—that real money will come in and the pound will rise higher, rendering British industry even more uncompetitive in world markets. It is also reasonable to look for bankruptcies, including some famous ones. Names over the next nine months. Strikes will not be the only test of the Government's nerves. This past week, Boots could manage static intercoms; Unilever slowed down; Chloride did as slowly as it feared; and the international giant, Philips, is still little better than making me. They are a foretaste of things to come. Gilt-edged prices have been unhelpful this week, but the unhelpfulness will only stop when world interest rates, especially American, stop rising; when inflation, still speeding up, starts falling; and when the Government's need to siphon money from gilt-edged securities is seen to lessen. I expect all these things to get worse before they get better, and in particular it will probably take time for the United States to put its house in order. Presidential election has begun.

Monopolizing the market in tables

The lifting of exchange controls will open the gates for a flood of British investment money into everything from Mexican cannabine farms to Korean massage parlours—the taste of the British investor for the bizarre and the unusual being what it is. And the market expects both sharks' teeth and cowrie shells to go to a premium against sterling by the year end. You may think I am exaggerating. But how else can the astounding investment offerings that are made so constantly be explained in these elegant of this press, that are patronized by, among others, the unnecessarily rich?

Old Timothy Potts, with his predilection for conies, would have choked on his shoulder of mutton at the idea of postage stamps as an investment. Nonetheless, the days are long past when this was regarded as out of the ordinary, and indeed, I can think of more than one firm of stockbrokers prepared to give advice on them.

Even they, however, presumably draw the line at silver replicas of postage stamps, or gold replicas of Indian picturing prints of the 1870's or pewter replicas of chamber pots of the famous. This does not seem to curb the imagination and enterprise of those who dream up for us such unlikely temptations as porcelain hand bells or seven replica glass walking sticks in a set, one for every day of the week (suit

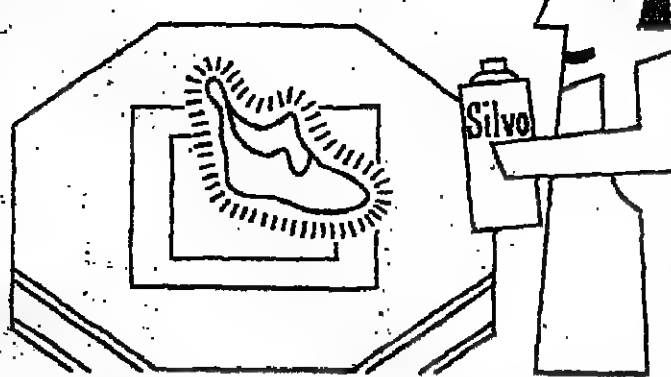
well-bred gentleman with delicate wrists).

However, as our new masters keep telling us, the market is all. And if there are people who are prepared to shell out good money earned from the sweat of their great-grand-fathers' brows for such unconsidered trifles then there is nothing much the rest of us can do about it except curl the lip in mild disdain. Or that's what I thought about it until a few weekends ago.

What changed my mind was to read in one of the weekend colour supplements an advertisement of such breath-taking vulgarity that it must have broken all inter-galactic records. I immediately decided to share it with you in case you missed it.

Described as a "major investment opportunity—in a strictly limited edition of 300" this exclusive hand-crafted Monopoly table is yours, all yours, for a little matter of £866 including fittings and fittings, the latter being rich and rare enough to reflect the taste of the sub-editor of the Book of the Revelation of St John the Divine.

Thus, the traditional play tokens, breathes the advertisement—the flat-iron, boot, top hat, bottle and so on—have been replaced by such unlikely temptations as porcelain hand bells or seven replica glass walking sticks in a set, one for every day of the week (suit



course. Within the table's two concealed compartments, the bankers' drawers, nestle the special gilt-edged laminated Chance, Community Chest and Property Cards and the hotels and houses in appropriately dyed sycamore. (I am not making a joke, I am quoting, honestly.)

It doesn't actually say that the dice are finely worked from lightly poached Tanzanian elephant ivory and that the money is hand-painted by monks on water-thin Icelandic vellum. But you will be glad to hear that the hexagonal table top is definitely crafted—and possibly even arched—in Cameroon cherry mahogany with carefully

matched wood graining. The Monopoly track being in Ceylonese sycamore with a marquetry border and the legs and flippings of rich African redwood.

The matching dice shaker is provided with a special non-scaffing brown suede base so as not to violate the table's finish of three coats of lacquer which is then hand-varnished and polished. The Lord be praised for that, anyway.

Those fortunate enough to acquire this item, continuous the blurb, will recognize it as a superb investment (though it is not inconceivable, says I, that they will be the only ones who do so). In any event, just in case the entire burgling com-

munity of Tower Hamlets is reaching for its jemmies this very minute, to verify authenticity of ownership each table set will be individually numbered and the owner's name craftily hand engraved on to brass plates applied thereon.

Here, hang on a minute, there! Brass? As in where-there's-much-there's-a-bit off. I think brass plates are a bit off. Definitely a bit off. I mean Manuel will have to hand polish them lovingly every day at the same time as the finely worked sterling silver flat-iron, boot, top hat, boat, dog and car.

And you know what servants are these days? Well, I mean, in an age of cost cutting, no expense has been spared to use the very best of materials, and particularly since credit card facilities are available, one would have thought they could at least have had the authenticity of ownership verification finely worked in 24-carat no-need-to-polish gold by one of London's leading goldsmiths.

Frankly, dear readers, that puts me off the whole thing. I mean, completely. That, and the fact that if there's a better example of those elements in our society that make one stone cold certain that a red revolution is inevitable, I would like to hear it.

Francis Kinsman

Insurance

Back to basics: family protection comes first

Life insurance is the best answer for family protection. Leaving aside the investment or tax advantages approach, for a modest outlay (much lower than in most other parts of the world), you can cover your life for many thousands of pounds.

Personal accident insurance may seem to be a cheaper alternative still, but it has the great drawback that should you die suddenly, as a result of an accident, your family would get nothing.

Insurance brokers don't go out of their way to sell policies which simply offer financial protection in the event of death before reaching a predetermined age.

If, however, you make it clear what you want, a broker should be able to get a competitive quote. Seldom is one company "the best" for all policies and terms of policy. Among the well known companies, however, Phoenix and Guardian Royal Exchange gen-

erally are among the leaders. Commercial Union can be competitive where large sums are involved.

Also often in the running are Swiss Life, UK Provident, National Provident Institution and Eton Life, as well as being well known as a good market for anyone with a health impairment.

Remember to check a broker's quote with the leading non-commissioned life offices: the Ecclesiastical (life), as well as clergy are accepted, Equitable Life, London Life—which will not normally be considered by a broker who lives by commission.

Whole life insurance is a combination between protection and saving, since it will pay out whenever you die—as a claim is inevitable at some stage. As a result, cost is higher than for a policy where the chances are that you will not make a claim.

If maximum cover at minimum cost is the aim, it is straight protection which is

needed. Term insurance is the obvious answer—to pay a set sum in the event of your death over a predetermined period.

How much cover you need is up to you, but, if you are around the age of 30 and need a 25-year policy, the cost may be just over 4p a day for every £10,000 of cover. This is the minimum; many insurers use a higher starting point. Four times salary is the best level in companies providing death cover.

Any smoker who gives up smoking and puts the cost towards this protection could buy high cover—and doctors, no doubt, would say that the possibility of a claim would be reduced.

If you are 30 and want the policy to run to the age of 65, cover can be about three times as expensive as for the shorter term. At 45, to run to the age of 60, each £10,000 of cover costs about 16p a day—which is hardly excessive.

It costs little more to add a

convertible option. If your policy is about to run out, but you are in failing health, you could convert (without providing any medical evidence) into a whole life policy—to pay whenever you die.

Normally, policy proceeds are left to a spouse, and are free from capital transfer tax. It can, however, be a good plan for at least some of the benefits to be written in trust for the children. In this way the money passes to the children free from capital transfer tax.

The main alternative to term insurance is family income benefits—where tax-free income is paid out by the life office from the date of death until expiry of the policy.

Family income benefits give the best protection in the event of death during the early years of the policy. (Term insurance is better if you die towards the end of the period). For a 25-year term, each £2,500 a year of benefits costs rather more than £25 a year for a 25-year-old, and £100 a year plus for a 40-year-old.

All these are gross premiums; at present you pay 17p per cent less, with the Inland Revenue making up the difference. In other words for each £100 invested, you pay £82.50 and the balance is reclaimed from the Revenue.

John Drummond

Costs could slow prices

In the year that has elapsed since we were last able to publish *The Times*/Halifax house price index, the average price of a second-hand house has risen by 27.4 per cent. This steady rise for would-be house buyers is matched only by the latest news that an emergency meeting of the Building Societies Association next week is likely to result in a sharp and unpalatable rise in the mortgage interest rate to at least 14.5 per cent.

The rise in house prices was at least not unexpected. It was, after all, the prospect of house prices rising still further and faster that has fuelled mortgage demand so vigorously this year.

The delayed rise in the mort-

gage interest rate to 12.5 per cent, announced in July but not operational until the beginning of next year (although now likely to be higher), falsely led many people, including the Government, to believe that the increase would never be necessary. Now we know better.

The prospect of a 15 per cent mortgage interest rate on the domestic budget is unpleasant. A young couple with a £10,000 mortgage who are paying £104.50 a month today (£83.40 net) and scheduled to pay £110 (£87 net) at the beginning of 1980 could instead find themselves paying £128.50 (£100.25 net) a month.

And the implications for borrowers who have taken up more expensive mortgages from clearing banks at rates around four points over bank base rates, now 17 per cent, are worrying. With the cost of expensive housing now running (or about to run at) a higher rate than both inflation and earnings, it seems likely that house prices, particularly in the high priced

areas of the South-east and London will be affected.

There is already some anecdotal evidence that house price rises in these regions were beginning to slow down before the Chancellor's draconian measures were announced.

There have been two important adjustments made to the house price index. It is no longer a simple average but one which has been seasonally adjusted to take into account and smooth out the odd month-to-month aberration. These can arise, for example, when there is an exceptional change in the mortgage mix—largely the absence or excess of mortgages on higher priced properties.

There has also been a change in the table of regional second-hand prices where the old monthly figures have been replaced with three-month moving averages which provide a steadier and more reliable indicator of regional trends.

MS

The Times/Halifax
house price indexMonthly index of average prices of second-hand houses
(Seasonally adjusted)

	Index	Average Price (£)	% change over the preceding 1 year	6 months	3 months
1977 December	100.0	14,757			
1978 March	105.8	15,579	15.5	9.8	5.6
June	109.3	16,133	16.9	9.3	3.6
September	118.2	17,450	23.0	12.0	8.2
October	117.4	17,326	20.0	13.5	4.0
November	119.9	17,891	21.9	14.8	3.1
December	121.1	17,866	21.1	10.7	2.4
1979 January	122.9	18,132	20.8	8.8	4.7
February	127.8	18,783	24.6	10.5	6.2
March	130.5	19,259	23.8	10.4	7.8
April	131.7	19,441	27.3	12.2	7.2
May	136.2	20,084	30.4	13.6	7.0
June	138.4	20,341	26.1	19.5	5.6
July	142.6	21,038	28.2	16.0	8.2
August	145.2	21,427	28.0	14.1	6.6
September	145.5	21,480	23.1	11.5	5.6
October	149.5	22,065	27.4	13.5	4.9

Average regional prices of second-hand houses

	Oct. £	Previous month £	% change over 3 months
North	16,903	17,003	2.7
Yorks and Humberside	14,950	14,819	4.9
North West	17,967	17,818	3.7
East Midlands	17,366	17,329	5.1
West Midlands	19,133	19,123	0.2
East Anglia	20,393	20,615	6.3
Wales	17,344	17,525	0.5
South West	23,529	22,828	6.4
South East	28,141	28,770	6.7
Greater London	30,206	29,430	8.8
Northern Ireland	22,211	22,294	2.4
Scotland	20,360	20,205	5.2

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Signature(s) _____ Date _____

If you have professional advisers please consult them regarding this offer.

Reinvestment of net income—please tick box ☐

Details of Share Exchange Scheme required—please tick box ☐

TIM

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

St Piran is not being referred to DoT

By Michael Prest
When St Piran yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £4.15m and set the date of its annual general meeting, the company's financial year on March 31, had prompted one of the major mining houses which is a shareholder to talk of referring the matter to the Department of Trade.

But the 52 per cent profit increase may go some way to allaying critics, at least while they are waiting for the outcome of the takeover Panel's inquiry into whether the stake held by Gasco Investments—a Hongkong company believed to be controlled by Mr J. J. Raper, a former St Piran Chairman—should trigger a takeover offer.

Summer dispute will hit HTV and LWT hard

By Our Financial Staff
HTV, along with other television contractors have managed to escape the worst effects of the 11 weeks' industrial dispute, which kept the companies off the air this summer, in their latest annual accounts.

The Welsh and West Country-based contractors produced pre-tax profits of £4.09m for the year ending July 31, 1979, compared with £3.21m last year. Turnover improved by more than £7m to £36.92m.

Profits from HTV's television interests increased by nearly £500,000 to £2.83m from 1978's £2.25m. The group received a substantial boost from its publishing and stationery division which shipped in £244,000, compared with only £42,000 last year.

But HTV, together with LWT, which published its accounts this week, indicate that profits in the current year will be drastically cut-back as a result of the summer shut-down.

LWT chairman Mr John Freeman, announcing pre-tax profits of £6.51m against £6.51m, said profits will be "very sharply reduced".

The London-based television contractor's turnover increased dramatically from £40.57m to £70.51m now that a full 12-month contribution has been made by book publishers, Hutchinson. During the year, LWT also acquired specialist travel and tour operator, Page & May. Profits from these two divisions produced about £600,000 each.

Performance of LWT's television side is roughly in line with the 1978 level and the group says it only lost around £200,000 from disputes.

Prospects on the revenue and profits from the Television operations do not look good for the current year. Although LWT's book publishing division has been suffering from the general down-turn in the market, it is receiving a boost from Mr Frederick Forsyth's latest best-seller.

Stock markets

Good gains in gilts

As expected, gilts dominated the stock market yesterday, bringing the equity account to a spectacular close.

After a massive turnover which attracted both institutions and speculators the long finished the day with gains of £2 to £2.4. Shorts closed with gains ranging from £2 to £5.

The FT index closed 0.7 up at 407.0.

Dealings in Charter Consolidated
Dealings in Charter Consolidated have been effectively suspended since the Stock Exchange ordered them to be uncramped pending a court decision on the arrangement on December 4. At 194p, the price is not attracting investors into the cum Minorco or cum cash shares either.

After an eager start leading industrialists began to ease slightly towards the close although most still managed to hold their earlier gains. Among these were ICI, reporting 9 months figures next week, 6p up at 330p and Glaxo 5p better at 383p. Gains of 2p were achieved in Unilever at 450p, Pisons at 234p and BAT's at 245p. Bechtel also with figures due next week firmed 1p to 125p while Rank Organisation remained unchanged at 180p.

On the bid from GEC improved 6p to 320p and Avcrs edged forward 5p to 243p. Speculative interest continued to surround EMI where the share price moved ahead 2p to 136p. There retreated 3p to 304p.

Imperial Group slipped 11p to 76p following a disappointing forecast issued in a circular to shareholders in connection with the bid for Howard Johnson. Alroy & Smithers proved a lively share as a result of the recent heavy activity in the gilt edged market, rising 8p to 181p.

Ladbroke currently appealing against the decision to suspend its gaming licence dropped 4p to 142p and Coral Leisure gave up 3p to 72p.

Among companies reporting Group Lotus were rewarded with a 2p rise to 33p after achieving more than doubled profits. F. H. Lloyd slid 2p to 35p after its statement while John Foster finished all square at 32p after reporting a first half trading loss.

Oil proved a buoyant feature where Shell and Ultramar continued to gain momentum after their reports earlier in the week. Shell were 6p better at 330p and Ultramar 5p to the good at 360p. BP were up 6p at 360p and the new were 5p firmer at 150p. Speculative interest continued in Lase, jumping 10p to 320p, and Tritel edged ahead 5p in front of next week's third quarter figures.

Electricals were mixed with Chloride slipping 1p to 71p as Bental improved 6p to 214p. Deca 'A' remained firm at 290p and Flessey rose 2p to 108p.

Leaders among the engineers showed small gains. Dowry rose 4p to 262p, Lucas were up 2p to 208p and GKN firmed a penny to 240p.

Banks proved firmer than of late with National Westminster gaining 7p to 320p and Barclays 5p to 398p. Lloyds rose 3p to 276p and Midland put on 2p to 323p.

Properties shrugged off their fears of late and moved ahead. Haslemere gained 6p to 244p as Land Securities were 2p better off at 245p. Hammerston 'A' jumped 5p to 710p while British Land could only muster 1p to 51p.

In insurance: Commercial Union continued to improve on its figures earlier in the week and the shares climbed a further 2p to 127p. General Accident and Royal Insurance also with results earlier in the week rose 6p to 202p and 9p to 300p respectively. GRS remained unchanged at 300p.

Guessing where Racal will eventually strike remains a favourite stock market game. Notice the way the group not only nurses, but nourishes its stake in Advest. It has now raised its stake from 10 per cent to 25.34 per cent. Advest closed unchanged at 212p while Racal rose 6p to 214p.

Equity turnover on November 15, was £21.245m (13,573 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were: Bechtel, BP, BP New, EMI, Consolidated Gold Fields, GEC, GME, ICI, Ladbroke, Land Secs, Lloyds Bank, Marks & Spencer, National Westminster, Racal, Shell and Ultramar.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Brenar Trust (I)	(—)	0.03(0.04)	0.01(0.07)	1.0(1.0)	21/1	2.01
Clyde Sloveres (I) (F)	(—)	0.23(0.25)	—	3.83(3.22)	4/1	4.65(4.05)
C. M. Bailey (P)	9.54(9.43)	0.8(0.61)	—	0.4(0.21)	21/2	0.4(0.21)
W. J. Bailey (P)	1.22(0.95)	0.24(0.15)	0.7(4.93)	1.2(0.1)	21/12	1.2(0.1)
Brengreen (I)	7.3(5.99)	0.17(0.12)	1.15(0.43)	0.2(0.1)	18/12	0.2(0.1)
Fobel (I)	9.8(8.4)	0.38(0.2)	—	0.34(0.24)	—	—
Cordiff Malt (F)	0.63(0.51)	0.09(0.09)	8.6(1.2)	1.0(0.3)	5/2	1.6(1.0)
F. Foster (I)	6.0(6.65)	0.25(0.05)	0.0(0.4)	1.0(1.0)	16/1	—
Don & Gen Tst (I)	(—)	0.22(0.19)	5.52(2.3)	3.0(2.22)	—	—
Highgate Optical (I)	0.86(1.3)	0.002(0.04)	—	—	—	—
Kuwait (F)	1.7(0.28)	0.03(0.02)	3.56(1.81)	0.54(—)	—	0.77(—)
Group Lotus (Int)	7.1(4.5)	339.000	6.8(2.9)	—	—	—
		(367.000)				
Lamont Hedges (I)	1.77(1.23)	0.08(0.009)	0.85(0.26)	—	—	—
F. H. Lloyd (I)	29.7(30.85)	0.23(1.4)	0.7(4.5)	0.5(1.65)	4/1	—
LWT (P)	70.5(65.5)	6.91(6.51)	22.2(20.8)	5.9(—)	14/12	3.89(—)
Ndu Amer Tr (F)	(—)	1.34(1.01)	4.2(3.1)	3.0(0.5)	7/1	4.0(0.5)
Pahang Cons (F)	(—)	0.33(0.65)	0.3(0.82)	—	—	—
RCE Hedges (F)	17.4(13.7)	8.3(0.6)	1.25(0.47)	1.84(1.44)	—	2.72(2.72)
Sekers Int (I)	2.7(1.5)	0.21(0.21)	2.67(3.15)	0.75(—)	25/1	—
Walker & Staff (I)	1.55(1.25)	0.06(0.07)	1.57(1.5)	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Dividends in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To calculate gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=loss. b=revenue.

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=loss, b=revenue.

Profits sagging at F H Lloyd

Trading continues to be difficult in the foundries market as profits for West Midlands-based F. H. Lloyd plummeted from £1.4m to £238,000 in the six months to September 29, 1979.

Turnover during the period was only down fractionally at £29.7m compared with £30m last time. Reductions hit the group hard this time with severe payments costing £583,000 compared with only £103,000 at the same time last year.

Attributable profit fell from last year's £1.07m to £169,000.

New oil group bid

Oil Exploration, the subject of an agreed bid by London and Scottish Marine Oil, has been approached by another possible bidder, the company said last night. Shareholders have been advised not to accept the Lasso offer.

A. Bell qualified

The latest accounts of whisky distillers, Arthur Bell & Sons

have been qualified by auditors Arthur Young, McClelland, Moore & Co. The company's accounting policies relating to its freehold heritable property do not comply with the latest current cost accounting procedures, say the auditors.

Under these procedures the Profit and Loss Account should be charged with the cost of the property over its expected life. Arthur Bell has not depreciated its property because the directors state the assets value is not less than shown in the accounts.

In brief

ANGLO SCOTTISH INV.
Gross revenue for year to Sept 30, £1.71m (Net £99,000). Total dividend, 3p gross, plus special non-recurring payment of 0.5p (total of 2.5p paid last time).

KUNICK HOLDINGS
Turnover for year to May 31, £1.74m (£288,000). Pre-tax profit, £96,000 (£20,000). Total dividend, 1.1p gross (nil).

BURMAN OIL
Kuwait Investment Office has acquired a further 75,000 shares in Burmah Oil, bringing its total interest to 7.28m shares (5.06 per cent).

S. & U. INVESTMENTS
Scottish and Universal Investments offers for Harrison & Scott accepted for 51 per cent of ordinary and deferred shares.

BLACK ARROW
Office equipment and electrical equipment distributors the Black Arrow Group has pushed up pre-tax profits during the six months to September 30 by 29 per cent to £220,000 against £171,000 in the same period last year. Turnover on continuing operations increased by 14 per cent to £2.42m against £2.10m although gross turnover finished marginally down at £2.42m compared with £2.44m.

APPLIED COMPUTER
On turnover up 44 per cent to £2.44m. The balance for September 30, pre-tax profits of Applied Computer Techniques (Holdings) jumped by 86 per cent to £308,000.

CONTROL SECURITIES
Control Securities Co has acquired an investment 275,000 ordinary shares in legal industries, engineers and financial advisers, from NV Slavenburg's Bank, of Rotterdam. With 295,500 shares already held, Control now has a 9.05 per cent interest in legal.

Options

Activity among the traditional options began to fizzle yesterday compared with the activity experienced earlier this week. Dealers expressed surprise at the amount of contracts now being completed in Australian Dollar Premium.

Traded options were slightly more active of late with £2m once again to the forefront. Some investors are obviously still of the opinion that a counter bid is still on the way. The total amount of contracts yesterday amounted to 459 compared with 565 the previous day.

Half-time boost for Group Lotus Car

By Rosemary Unsworth
Group Lotus Car Companies benefited from the upsurge in the car industry in the first half of this year by more than doubling its profits and boosting sales by 58 per cent at the interim stage.

Trading profits went from £347,000 to £938,000 and sales rose from £4.5m to £7.1m in the 26 weeks to June 30, 1979. The rise comes from increased sales of Lotus products and improvement in the group's engineering activities, said Mr Colin Chapman, chairman.

Distribution in the United States of the group's products, which will now be undertaken

by Rolls-Royce Motors, is

at the end of last year cost the group £105,900.

In line with previous there is no interim dividend paid for three

He added that the group hoped for increased in the second half, but

taxation in the worst omic situation during month must have som on the group's produc

year Lotus made £640, tax profits

The share price rose 33p on the results.

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE

PARTICULARS OF AN ISSUE OF £1,000,000

13 1/2 per cent TREASURY STOCK, 2000-2003

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS:

Amount paid on issue	£20.00 per
Amount payable on Wednesday, 5th December 1979	£71.00 per

INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 25th JANUARY 25th JULY

- This Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the F.R.S. 1979. The Stock is to be issued in the form of a certificate of stock.
- The whole of the Stock has been issued to the Bank of England. The Bank of England will be the sole holder of the Stock.
- The principal of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the assets of the Bank of England.
- It is not necessary to redeem the Stock. The Bank of England will be the sole holder of the Stock.
- The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, or at the Bank of Scotland, or at the Bank of Wales, or at the Bank of Northern Ireland, or at the Bank of the Republic of Ireland, or at the Bank of the Channel Islands, or at the Bank of the Isle of Man, or at the Bank of the British Virgin Islands, or at the Bank of the Cayman Islands, or at the Bank of the Falkland Islands, or at the Bank of the Gibraltar, or at the Bank of the Jersey, or at the Bank of the Guernsey, or at the Bank of the Channel Islands, or at the Bank of the Isle of Man, or at the Bank of the British Virgin Islands, or at the Bank of the Cayman Islands, or at the Bank of the Falkland Islands, or at the Bank of the Gibraltar, or at the Bank of the Jersey, or at the Bank of the Guernsey, or at the Bank of the Channel Islands, or at the Bank of the Isle of Man, or at the Bank of the British Virgin Islands, or at the Bank of the Cayman Islands, or at the Bank of the Falkland Islands, or 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